SPROTT SHAW COLLEGE SINCE 1903

FIND YOUR PASSION

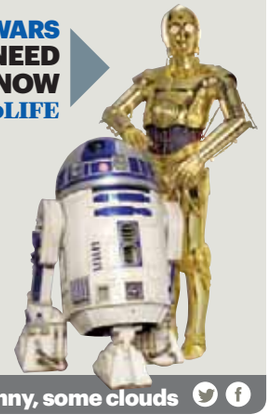
AND YOUR PURPOSE WITH A CAREER IN HEALTH:
SPROTTSHAW.COM

• PRACTICAL NURSING
• HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT
• COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

STAR WARS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
metroLIFE



High 7°C/Low 4°C Sunny, some clouds

FACEBOOK

SURPRISE SLUMBER PARTY

Fierce winds strand 300 people at Grouse Mountain overnight

metroNEWS

'There are no words ... just crying and tears'

REFUGEES

Relatives of drowned Syrian boy due by year's end

The aunt of a Syrian toddler whose lifeless body pictured on a Mediterranean beach sparked worldwide outrage over a refugee crisis says the flights have been booked to bring some of her relatives to Canada.

Tima Kurdi said her brother Mohammad Kurdi, along with his wife and five children, are scheduled to arrive into Vancouver the morning of Dec. 28.

Mohammad is the uncle of Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old boy who died alongside his mother and older brother when their overcrowded boat flipped while crossing the treacherous waters between Turkey and Greece.

Tima described informing her sister-in-law after learning Saturday morning that Citizenship and Immigration Canada had finalized the family's travel arrangements.

"I phoned them and I said, 'They booked you Dec. 28.'" said Tima on Sunday when reached by phone at her Vancouver-area home. "And first she said to the kids, 'Oh my God, the flight is booked Dec. 28.' And the kids were screaming. And she was like, 'Really? Seriously?' And we started crying and crying and crying.... There were no words after that, just crying and tears.

"It was the most emotional phone call," she said. "It almost took me back to that news when I heard about my nephew (Alan)."

Mohammad Kurdi has been in Germany since leaving his family in Turkey seven months ago to find work. He has yet to meet his youngest child, who was born in July. The family will reunite in Frankfurt before flying together to Canada.

Tima is in the process of opening a hair salon in Port Coquitlam, B.C., where she said Mohammad will join her as a barber. Back in Turkey, his 14-year-old eldest son Chergo worked in a clothing factory to help support the family during his father's absence, but he will go to school once he arrives in Canada, said Tima.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada rejected an initial application from Tima to bring Mohammad and his family to Canada, saying it was missing the necessary paperwork. But Tima said officials were asking for a difficult-to-obtain United Nations document, which they were unable to find.

It was that initial rejection that prompted Alan's father Abdullah to try the deadly boat journey, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

— FREE REAL ESTATE EVENT —

FORTUNES IN FLIPPING

GET IN, GET OUT, GET PAID!

Be My Next Real Estate Millionaire

And Get Started on Making $5,000 - $50,000 a Month!

Nick Vertucci
Real Estate Expert, Mentor and Coach ...
is assembling an exclusive team of wealth builders in your area. He is ready to teach people like you how to make up to **$40,000 per deal** with his 3-step "Fortunes in Flipping" program.

As Seen On

abc · Discovery · MSNBC · NBC · FOX NEWS · CBS · HGTV · CNN

I have so much I want to tell you. It's information that can help you break through quickly and start fulfilling your dream.

Transform Your Dreams into Reality!

Right now, people in the Vancouver area are making millions flipping houses. In fact, there's never been a better time to do it.

I'm holding a **FREE** event near you to tell you all about it. Let me teach you my surefire 3-step Fortunes in Flipping program ... and introduce you to your new mentors: trained real estate professionals who are actively investing in your market right now.

I'll Show You, Step-by-Step, How to Make Money Just Like I Do

I've built a real estate empire on my own. Nobody gave it to me. I took the fantastic opportunities North America provides, and I went out and got what I wanted. Now I want to give back by helping average, ordinary people – just like myself – **get a big piece of the pie.**

Some people don't think it's possible. After all, in the last five years, average homeowners have lost more money in real estate than ever before.

But that doesn't faze me one bit because... During that same time period ... savvy investors (like my students and I) have made **MORE MONEY** in real estate than in any other time in our history.

We're now seeing the conditions in which **FORTUNES ARE MADE.** It all depends on which side of the market you're on. And I want to teach you how to be on the receiving end of massive wealth.

Discover the same methods my team's used to flip 800 houses so you can:

- **Earn $10,000 to $50,0000 per deal – in your spare time!**
- **Get access to seed money to start investing!**
- **Find exclusive properties for 40% off retail price!**

There's Only One Question

Will YOU seize the opportunity by coming to my FREE Real Estate Event? I'll show you exactly how you can do what I do, even if you don't think you have the experience or the money to get started.

All Attendees will receive VIP TECH packages.

- ✓ GPS Smart Watch
- ✓ Power Charger
- ✓ USB Flash Drive Loaded with Nick's Fortunes & Flipping Kit
- ✓ FREE Lunch or Dinner

FREE MEAL

Call NOW to Register 800-301-9645
or visit www.NickFlipsCanada.com

REAL ESTATE ACADEMY — NICK VERTUCCI

RICHMOND
Wed, December 16
12pm or 6pm
Hilton Vancouver Airport
5911 Minoru Boulevard

SURREY
Thu, December 17
12pm or 6pm
Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel
15269 104 Avenue

VANCOUVER
Fri, December 18
12pm or 6pm
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel
1088 Burrard Street

BURNABY
Sat, December 19
10am or 2pm
The Element Vancouver Metrotown
5988 Willingdon Avenue

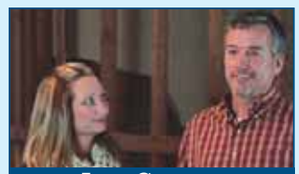
Here are just a few of the hundreds of investors whose lives have been changed by investing with Nick Vertucci Companies.

Don & Ester Jensen

Closed Sales - 10 closed deals
(including partnerships and wholesale)
Profits from Sales & Wholesale $228,750
"We have also made around 20k just in referral fees for Hard Money referrals"
Pending Sales - 4 Deals
On Market - 3 Deals
Deals Under Rehab - 4 Deals
Projected Profits - $2,650,000
That's 22 Deals total since they went to Bus Tour Sept 2014

Melva & Leon

1st Property made $37,328
2nd Property made $52,865
3rd Property made $100,105
Total of $190,298 in profit in 6 months. Since then...
2 Cash Flow properties at $2,500/mth



John Cooksey

Attended Bus Tour Sept 2014
4 Properties purchased first 6 mths
1st Flip - profit $5,000
2nd Flip - profit $8,000
1 in construction - estimated profit $80,000
1 Commercial Property (4 commercial spaces, 17 residential) - estimated Cash Flow $34,000/mth
1 Purchased Duplex - $800/mth

Individual results may vary, some are better or worse because it depends on how much time, energy and money an individual puts into their real estate business. © 2015 NVCompanies. All Rights Reserved. Gifts and promotional materials may vary.

metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Tears, love and family greet newly arrived Syrian refugees in Montreal. **Canada**

Vancouver approves 58 extra taxis in time for holidays

ROADS

Getting a cab will get easier after request granted

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Hailing a cab in Vancouver might be slightly less impossible for the remainder of the holiday season.

An urgent request for 58 temporary taxi licences to meet high demand during the festive season received unanimous approval from council in a midnight vote on Thursday.

The Vancouver Taxi Association already received approval to operate the extra cabs until Jan. 8 from B.C.'s Passenger Transportation Board (PTB) early last week, but it needed council's permission on top of that because the regulators have joint jurisdiction.

Councillors decided to suspend their moratorium on licences in order to give the people what they want — extra taxis during the holiday party rush.

"The riders of the city will welcome the news," Coun. Geoff Meggs said. "I don't think we've heard the last of taxi supply in the city, but this is an important step we can take to meet some of the concerns of the riders."

The taxi association, which comprises four local cab companies, originally requested 198 temporary licences.

Meggs expressed surprise that the board approved even 58, as the regulator recently denied 58 licences for wheelchair accessible taxis because it did not believe there was a demand for them. (PTB chair Don Zurowski told Metro that 18 per cent of the fleet is accessible but only two per cent of dispatch trips are for people with mobility challenges.)

Despite council's previous disagreements with the PTB, Meggs said this decision brings the two regulators closer together.

"It brings us into close alignment with the PTB, and this group of taxis can hit the roads as soon as they go through requisite inspections," he said.

His motion encouraged the taxi association to deploy as many wheelchair accessible cabs as possible. The mayor will also write a letter to the PTB asking it to reconsider the 58 permanent accessible licences.

The Vancouver Taxi Association did not immediately return a Sunday request asking how quickly it will deploy the additional taxis.

Taxis travel along Water Street in Gastown on Dec. 9, 2015. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

> **This is an important step we can take to meet some of the concerns of the riders.**
> Coun. Geoff Meggs

MTI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CARE & EDUCATION
"I enjoyed taking the ECE course, my teacher was great and very helpful. I am happy to say I have found a job from my 1st practicum and look forward to starting my career."
– April
Full-time and part-time classes available
Post basic training • infant and toddler • special needs
Career options include daycares & pre-schools
Monthly Start Dates
604-310-2684 MTICC.COM

High winds strand 300 atop Grouse Mountain

WEATHER

Impromptu Christmas film marathon keeps it fun

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

More than 300 people pulled an unexpected all-nighter up on Grouse Mountain Saturday, as a fierce windstorm hit southern British Columbia.

Gusts in excess of 100 kilometres an hour meant the gondola that transports people on and off the mountain was unsafe to operate by late evening, according to Grouse Mountain spokeswoman Julia Grant.

That left more than 300 people — skiers, snowboarders, those attending a corporate Christmas party and staff, among others — stranded on the mountain overnight until the storm died down early Sunday morning.

"It's a pretty extreme case for us," said Grant. "But safety is always our No. 1 priority."

Despite being trapped in the North Shore mountain's chalet, Grant said staff did their best to make the most of the circumstances.

People were fed throughout the night and an impromptu Christmas movie marathon was held at the chalet's Theatre in the Sky.

The gondola resumed service shortly after 5 a.m. to shuttle people off the mountain.

Environment Canada meteorologist Trevor Smith said he had no doubt wind speed at the top of the mountain hit triple digits.

While the storm, which prompted both rainfall and wind warnings, clocked in at over 60 kilometres per hour at low-lying Vancouver International Airport, peak winds on Vancouver Island reached 122.

The Strait of Georgia was also hit hard, with BC Ferries having to delay or cancel several ferry crossings Saturday night.

But it wasn't all bad news.

The storm also brought in up to 75 centimetres of fresh snow on the North Shore mountains (43 on Grouse), which, given last year's dismal ski season, made for "probably the biggest snowfall in two years" at local hills, according to Smith.

That may have been little solace for those stuck on Grouse Mountain overnight, but it was sure to make those taking the gondola ride up on Sunday happy.

About 43 centimetres of snow fell on Grouse Saturday night, causing ski operators to rejoice. FACEBOOK.COM

> **It's a pretty extreme case for us. But safety is always our No. 1 priority.**
> Grouse Mountain spokeswoman Julia Grant

STEWARDSHIP

City asks deposit to pull trees

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver doesn't trust residents to replace trees when they uproot old ones, so it wants to demand a cash deposit until residents can prove they're proper tree parents.

The city wants owners to pay a security deposit of $500 or $750 (depending on the size of the tree) when they remove a tree. That's money the government will keep until owners prove they have planted a new tree and taken good care of it for at least a year, according to a report council will vote on this week.

There is a one-for-one replacement rule for tree removal, but between 25 and 35 per cent of replacement trees die or are removed within their first year, according to the city.

The security deposit is meant to deter people from not planting the replacement tree, planting it in the wrong location, choosing a poor quality tree that won't survive or not taking care of it properly.

It's part of the city's larger strategy to maintain its urban forest. Since approximately 60 per cent of trees live on private property, the city changed its bylaws last year to require owners to get an inspector's approval before they can remove a tree. More than 1,700 inspections have been conducted since October 2014; hundreds were denied.

absolute spa
HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS
Never Expire | Any Denomination | Instant E-Cards Available
604.684.2772 | www.absolutespa.com
Ask about the HUGE SAVINGS on our Ultimate Christmas Jewel Package!

Bradley Spence and Taz Barrett are the brains behind Boulder Denim jeans, which are stretchy enough to wear for climbing or yoga.
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fashion meets functionality

INNOVATION

Entrepreneur founds an 'adventure jeans' company

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A year ago, Bradley Spence set out to find the perfect jeans.

The avid climber from Vancouver wanted a pair that was sufficiently stretchy for the climbing gym, but also stylish enough to wear to the pub. Despite searching high and low, Spence came up empty handed.

"Most climbing pants out there are kind of baggy — it's not something you'd wear out for a beer after climbing," he said, adding with a laugh: "And a beer after climbing is very popular amongst the climbing community."

Rather than settle for a less-than-ideal pair, Spence, 27, did what few people would consider attempting: he decided to make his own. Several months of designing and developing later, Boulder Denim was born.

Last week, Boulder Denim co-founders Spence and Taz Barrett launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund the final step of their business venture. Within 30 hours, they reached their $15,000 crowdfunding goal, and not long after, they doubled it.

"It's overwhelming," he said. "People are really excited. We've kind of hit on something here and it's pretty cool."

Born and raised in Surrey, Spence said his goal is to do for climbing what fellow Vancouver-based apparel company Lululemon has done for yoga and Arc'teryx for raincoats.

That might seem like a lofty goal, but the Douglas College business graduate is confident he can achieve it with Boulder Denim.

For Spence, who is quick to emphasize that he is "not a fashion designer," the past year has been a crash course in the fashion and design world.

After extensive research and collaborations with experts on design and fabric, the company developed denim made of a mix of cotton, polyester and lycra woven together in a unique way that allows it to stretch and still retain its shape.

He said the denim has a 92 per cent stretch retainment, compared to the industry average of 60 per cent. The fabric is also stain resistant, and the jeans include trap pockets to prevent keys and other items from falling out.

Boulder Denim worked with a designer from a major Vancouver athletic apparel company (Spence could not disclose the name) to develop the patented material.

> **Our jeans are so stretchy, they almost fit like yoga pants. You could size down a size or two and they're still going to fit.**
> Boulder Denim creator Bradley Spence

"When people put the samples on that we have, their reactions are like, 'wow.' If you pick up the jeans, they feel like regular jeans," he said. "But when you put them on, they turn into yoga pants, but it's still real denim."

Already, climbers are embracing Boulder Denim.

More than 260 people have ordered at least a T-shirt or as many as three pairs of jeans through backing the company's Kickstarter campaign, and are expected to receive their jeans in early 2016.

Well-known slackliner Spencer Seabrooke — who holds the free solo world record for walking along a high line spanning a 64-metre gap 290 metres off the ground at the North Gully of Squamish's Stawamus Chief Mountain without a safety harness — is also already a sponsored athlete.

But Spence said the pants aren't just for climbers.

"Climbing is our niche market, but they're essentially adventure jeans," he said, adding that yogis are equally enthused by the high-stretch fabric. "The jeans are for anyone who wants to be active and wants to have a really comfortable, functional pair of denim that's also really stylish."

With a lifetime warranty, Spence is certain that his product will go the distance.

Boulder Denim guarantees the denim and seams will not rip, but if they do, the company will either pay for a repair or replace the jeans.

DID YOU KNOW ELECTRICIANS IN BC CAN EARN UP TO $39.32/HR*?
Train in our state-of-the-art labs from experienced industry professionals! Apply for the Construction Electrician Foundation program and you can earn your diploma in less than a year.
VANCOUVER CAREER COLLEGE ALSO OFFERS PROGRAMS IN:
• EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
• HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT
• PARALEGAL
• PLUMBER FOUNDATIONS
• PRACTICAL NURSING
• AND MORE!
ASK ABOUT OUR EVENING CLASSES!
1.800.993.4086
STUDY.VCCOLLEGE.CA
VANCOUVER CAREER COLLEGE
*jobbank.gc.ca
Financial assistance may be available to qualified applicants.

City trying for more home salvage

RECYCLING

Staff want rules to include all house demolitions

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver wants to save perfectly good materials in older homes from the landfill, a fate that all too often comes knocking when new owners demolish houses to build even larger mansions.

City staff recommended strengthening its rules to require all demolitions to recycle or reuse at least 75 per cent of the material by 2018, according to a report council is scheduled to vote on this week.

The rule, which came into effect in September 2014, only applies to homes built before 1940 and has saved an estimated 9,000 tonnes of material from the landfill or incinerator.

But it's not slowing the rate of demolition in the city, as those homes only account for about a quarter of the approximately 1,000 houses torn down annually, the report states. Their loss often leaves neighbours shaking their heads, a phenomenon documented in a Facebook group called Vancouver Vanishes that pays homage to the character homes smashed by wrecking balls.

Nor did the new rule result in as much salvaging and reuse of materials as the city hoped for, according to the report.

Should council vote in favour, the city would apply the stricter demolition rules to pre-1950s homes by 2017 and to all homes by 2018.

Residents protested the demolition of the 115-year-old Legg Residence in the West End, but to no avail, and it was torn down in June 2014. The city is looking to expand recycling requirements to include all homes, not just older ones. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

1,000

The approximate number of houses torn down in the city each year. A single family home is typically made of 100 tonnes of material, of which only half is usually salvaged.

A typical single family home is made of 100 tonnes of material, only half of which is usually salvaged during a demolition. Salvage operators typically remove high-value materials including fixtures, doors and windows, but used wood — about half of the material — doesn't have much resale value because it needs to be recertified and new wood is cheap.

That wood is what the city hopes to save with the policy it will phase in by 2018.

To do so, it hopes to build demand for salvaged wood to use for construction and decorative pieces.

It's already working with Habitat for Humanity on the project.

ISSofBC

English Now!

No-cost English Language training for BC immigrants.

- Job-related English training in administration or retail busines
- No-cost classes plus weekly one-to-one tutorials with your instructor
- Connections to employment programs and employers
- Classes in Vancouver, Richmond, Langley or New Westminster
- Transit fares provided

Contact English Now at ISS of BC for details.

604-684-2325
englishnow@issbc.org
www.issbc.org/english-now

Vancouver ● Richmond ● New Westminster ● Langley

Canada | WelcomeBC

Project Based Language Training is part of the WelcomeBC umbrella of services, made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columia

www.issbc.org facebook.com/issbc twitter.com/issbc

HAIR LOSS?

HF LASER SKIN CLINICS IS A CANADIAN COMPANY DEVOTED TO THE ANALYSIS OF NON-DISEASED HAIR PROBLEMS. A number of men and women experience Hair Loss and Scalp Disorders that will lead to baldness.

Most people allow their problem to escalate through procrastination, neglect or simply a lack of knowledge. There are numerous formulas claiming hair growth, many of which will not help your type of Hair and Scalp Disorder.

The **first** step is to find out more about your Hair Loss problem. And what can be done to to help your individual case.

To accurately evaluate your Hair Loss disorder, HF LASER SKIN CLINICS provide a VISUALIZATION MICROSCOPIC TEST that enables you to understand the particular nature of your Hair Loss/ Thinning problem. Presently, the VISUALIZATION MICROSCOPIC TEST for people losing hair is at no charge or obligation. **For a complimentary test & scalp analysis contact:**

HF LASER SKIN CLINICS

VANCOUVER
(604) 341-0054
100-3077 Granville Street

www.Hairfreeclinics.com
micronvancouver@gmail.com
www.micronlabs.com

We offer all solutions to your problem. You don't have to be bald.

BC Hydro misled commission: NDP

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Allegations centre on tech company

B.C.'s hydro utility intentionally misled a regulatory agency over the spending of hundreds of millions of dollars on information technology, says the New Democrat opposition.

The allegations focus on a BC Hydro five-year plan for information technology and telecommunications and the company chosen to provide the software.

Adrian Dix, the NDP's critic for BC Hydro, outlined his concerns in a letter written to Len Kelsey, chair and CEO of the BC Utilities Commission.

"The president of BC Hydro has to take action here," said Dix. "I mean it is a terrible message to send when you have BC Hydro behaving in this way."

In his letter, Dix said BC Hydro told the utility commission in February 2008 that it had rejected using software made by a company called SAP in favour of a less-expensive product. Dix contends Hydro later reversed its decision, but didn't acknowledge the change in a proposed budget when Hydro officials met with the utilities commission in October. BC Hydro also hid elements of its IT plan, breaking up programs and projects into smaller units so the cost would fall below the $20-million bar that would trigger a review.

"The consequence of this deception, a deception understood across BC Hydro's management team, meant that the decision to proceed with SAP — a decision that is still being implemented at a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars — was not reviewed, with severe consequences for BC Hydro rate payers," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adrian Dix says BC Hydro has spent $500 million on IT-system upgrades but just half the work is finished. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

SOCIAL MEDIA

Police chief's future part still uncertain

The future of Victoria's police chief turned uncertain again Friday after the police board said it was considering several options as it investigates a brewing social media scandal.

The shift comes one week after the board fully supported Chief Const. Frank Elsner after he apologized for exchanging messages on Twitter with the wife of an officer under his command.

The police board said in a statement it will conduct an internal disciplinary investigation under the Police Act after receiving reports about the chief's actions.

It said Elsner "admitted he acted inappropriately during a social media exchange in June of 2015."

Police board co-chairwomen Lisa Helps and Barb Desjardins attended a news conference Friday at the headquarters of the Victoria Police Department.

Asked if Elsner could be fired, Desjardins said: "The options would range all the way from one end of the spectrum to the other."

Helps is the mayor of Victoria, and Desjardins is mayor of the neighbouring community of Esquimalt, which is also served by Victoria police.

"The chief of police is still on the job, in fact he is on vacation at this point," Desjardins said.

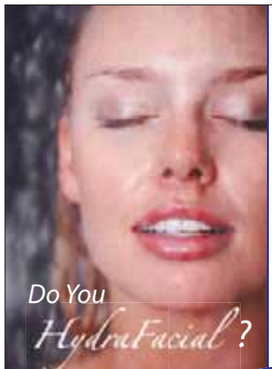
"We have to ensure due process and it's very important that the chief constable be part of that as well," she said.

Desjardins said the police board is considering advice from its legal counsel and input from British Columbia's Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner before making its next moves. She said the board will convene as quickly as it can, but a date has not been set.

The police commissioner's office said in a statement Friday it is awaiting further information from the police board before it can complete a review of the matter.

Elsner issued a statement last week saying he was sorry and humiliated for exchanging direct messages with a woman on Twitter.

"With respect to the chief's leadership of the department, the board is committed to making a timely decision on this important issue," the board said in its statement. "The board is equally committed to ensuring all members of the Victoria Police Department are treated fairly and accorded due process." THE CANADIAN PRESS



HydraFacial MD®
SKIN HEALTH FOR LIFE™

- Exfoliate to Lighten Brown Spots & Improve Skin Tone & Texture
- Extract Dirt, Oil, Blackheads & Whiteheads
- Hydrating Serums Reduce the Appearance of Fine Lines
- Protect & Nourish Skin

$175 includes FREE Lymphatic drainage + LED Light Therapy with this ad!

604-255-2737
www.ElectraLaser.com
ELECTRA LASER
HAIR REMOVAL & SKIN REJUVENATION EXPERTS
L12 - 955 Hornby St. Vancouver

HUDSON'S BAY

CLASSIC
good looks

FOSSIL
Clockwise from top:
Grant watches
$175, $165, $135
and $165.

CANADA'S #1
SELLER OF WATCHES

SHOP THEBAY.COM

Park board works to honour old promise

AQUARIUM

Free passes for low-income guests slated for 2016

Tereza Verenca
Metro | Vancouver

The nearly decade-old promise to distribute 26,000 free passes to the Vancouver Aquarium to low-income visitors will finally come to fruition by the end of March.

Metro has learned the Vancouver Park Board is currently in the process of working out the kinks of what the program will look like.

"What we're working on is finding a way to use the OneCard system, which is a vehicle we did not have when this was envisioned, in partnership with our ActiveNet, the new registration system," said general manager Malcolm Bromley.

"We've got technology on our side where we can distribute them, track them and not necessarily have a paper-based analog system ... Between those two tools ... we want to be able to demonstrate to the aquarium that we've got due diligence on ensuring that the right people receive it."

Bromley said a possible scenario could be a pin pad at the aquarium's front desk where OneCard users who qualify as low-income could swipe in, "in a respectful, confidential way."

Back in 2006, then-park board commissioner Spencer Chandra Herbert put forward a motion that called on the aquarium to supply 1,000 individual passes at no cost to each of the board's 26 community centres on an annual basis, should the facility go ahead with its major expansion project. The program would then be administered by park board staff.

> **"I'll believe it when I see it."**
> Spencer Chandra Herbert, former Vancouver Park Board commissioner

The first phase of the expansion project, which included an extra 55,000 square feet, wrapped up last June. Since then, some — including Herbert — have called on the aquarium to follow through on its promise.

Bromley said the process has been delayed over the last year because there was a lot going on in the park board and at the aquarium.

"We were rolling out ActiveNet at the time. Our priority was getting a new information data system out for all registrations," he explained, adding his team took three months to fully launch ActiveNet and do away with Safari registration.

"Then there was the election, a change in the board," he said. "So there was just a lot of moving parts."

For Herbert, the announcement is better late than never, but he said he's still disappointed it didn't happen sooner.

"I'm sorry that 26,000 low-income kids and their parents haven't been the priority of the aquarium and the park board in this matter," said the MLA for Vancouver-West End. "You'd think that a resolution passed back in 2006 would have been able to be enacted sooner than 10 years later. I'll believe it when I see it."

As it stands, admission to the aquarium costs $29 for adults, $20 for seniors, youth and students and $15 for children ages four to 12.

The Vancouver Park Board is working to deliver on its 2006 commitment to make 26,000 free Aquarium passes available to low-income families. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE WIZARD OF OZ
By L. Frank Baum • With Music & Lyrics by Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg
Background Music by Herbert Stothart • Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard
Orchestration by Larry Wilcox • Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company
BASED UPON THE CLASSIC MOTION PICTURE OWNED BY TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. & DISTRIBUTED IN ALL MEDIA BY WARNER BROS.
DECEMBER 10, 2015–JANUARY 3, 2016 • MainStage
The Wicked Family Musical you know and love!
GATEWAY THEATRE
604.270.1812
gatewaytheatre.com

City can learn from Europe on vacant homes: UBC Study

REAL ESTATE

One in four homes empty for at least part of the year

A pink castle in a former theme park in the Netherlands is among the unique places that Europe's so-called property guardians can call home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Imagine living in a former church, school building or fire station for $50 a week. Consider a 25 per cent tax on people who leave their homes vacant. Or the city taking over the hard work of finding a tenant for owners wary of renting.

While there is disagreement in Vancouver about the extent of the problem, "dark houses" continue to be a hot topic in a city with one of the least affordable housing markets on Earth.

An oft-cited study by adjunct UBC planning professor Andrew Yan found up to one in four units vacant — for at least part of the year — in some Vancouver neighbourhoods.

But think tank Urban Futures found just 5.4 per cent of units unoccupied overall, in line with other big cities. Here's how Europe has tackled vacant homes.

France vacancy tax

France introduced its vacancy tax in 1998 in cities with more than 200,000 residents.

The tax is applied to units that have been uninhabited more than 30 consecutive days over the past two years — as long as they're not too run down to be lived in or already on the market.

Vancouver Coun. Geoff Meggs said he would consider a vacancy tax, but pointed out that such measures are implemented on a wider basis — not just in one city.

"If it takes this issue off the public agenda, then I'd be in favour of it on that basis alone," he joked. "I do think it's a distraction. I'm offended, as everybody else is, by the thought that someone has so much money they can buy a house and just sit and speculate on the land value."

Paris's Louez solidaire

Directly translated as "rent solidarity," this initiative enables the city to assume the risks of renting on behalf of private owners.

The owner entrusts an empty unit to a partner agency contracted by the Paris government for three to six years. The partner selects a tenant, and guarantees the owner that the rent will be paid and any damage will be covered. In exchange, the tenant pays about 70 to 80 per cent of the market rent.

The owner collects the cash without the risk, and Paris increases its affordable rental housing stock. But Urban Futures director Ryan Berlin was skeptical the model would work in Vancouver, where he said issues around foreign ownership and vacancy have nothing to do with owners wanting to rent out their units but not being able to.

The Netherlands' property guardianship

This model dates back to 1980, when Amsterdam was besieged by squatters and vandalism. A real estate agent needed to protect a vacant building, so he drew up a legal squatting contract, enabling his nephew — a student — to live in the city centre at a fraction of the market rent.

Property guardianship was born, and has since exploded across Europe and become enshrined in the tenancy laws of several countries.

The model has been embraced by government and professional investors with large portfolios, but not as much by private investors, meaning it might not address Vancouver's issues, said Camelot spokesman Bob de Vilder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

YOU COULD WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF THE HATEFUL EIGHT ON DECEMBER 21

70MM IN THEATRES JANUARY 8, 2016 ULTRA PANAVISION 70

club metro

No purchase necessary. One entry per person, per day. Contest open to residents of the cities of Toronto, ON and Vancouver, BC, who have attained the age of majority in their province of residence as at the start of the Contest Period. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in each city. Thirty (30) prizes are available to be won in each city, each consisting of a double movie pass to "The Hateful Eight." Approximate retail value of each prize is $25 CDN. Each selected entrant must correctly answer, unaided, a mathematical skill-testing question to be declared a winner. Contest Period opens at 12:01 am ET on December 12, 2015 and closes at 11:59 pm ET on December 16, 2015. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com.

HUDSON'S BAY OPTICAL

Burnaby Metropolis at Metrotown	604-436-1196 x450	Victoria Bay Centre	250-385-1311 x256
Langley Willowbrook Mall	604-530-8434 x450	Victoria Mayfair Shopping Centre	250-386-3322 x343
Surrey Guildford Town Centre	604-588-2111 x450	West Vancouver Park Royal Centre	604-925-1411 x3450
Vancouver Downtown	604-689-2321		

May not be used with any other offer, vision care plan, package pricing or prior orders. See optician for details. Ends December 31, 2015.

HUDSON'S BAY

Newly arrived Syrian refugee Samer Beylouneh, left, wipes a tear as his daughter Laila greets her aunt Marie Belona at a welcome centre in Montreal on Saturday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Their arrival is a Christmas present'

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Anas Fransis reunited with relatives after 8 years

The arrival of a second federal government planeload of Syrian refugees in Montreal Saturday night was "a real Christmas present" for one Syrian man who was reunited with family he hasn't seen in eight years.

Anas Fransis and his mother were at the welcome centre near the airport to welcome Fransis' uncle and his wife, their two teenage daughters and Fransis' grandmother, who were among the 161 privately sponsored refugees to make the trip from Beirut to Canada aboard a government aircraft.

Fransis ran out to greet them, twirling his cousins and embracing the adults. His grandmother, Laila Saeed, was the last one through the door, her face wet with tears.

"They'll be here for Christmas, they'll be here for New Year's," said Fransis, who came to Canada from Syria in 2008. "Their arrival is a Christmas present ... a real Christmas present."

His 13-year-old cousin, Laila Beylouneh, was excited for her family's new start.

"My future is starting now," she said in English. "I wish all my dreams will come true."

The arrival comes less than 48 hours after a government aircraft brought 163 refugees to Toronto on Thursday.

More than 400 refugees have arrived by commercial flights since the federal Liberals took power last month, but these have been the first to be brought by government aircraft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MISSING PERSONS

Remains in woods those of Quebec girl

Eight years after she vanished near her home in Trois-Rivieres, Que., nine-year-old Cedrika Provencher has finally been found.

Quebec provincial police announced Saturday night that human remains discovered in the woods outside the city were those of Cedrika, who went missing on July 31, 2007.

News of the discovery prompted an outpouring of condolences on social media, including from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"My heart goes out to the family of Cedrika Provencher," he tweeted. "May you finally be able to mourn your daughter and may she rest in peace."

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard also expressed his sympathy for the Provencher family on Twitter.

Cedrika's disappearance spawned massive manhunts, a huge police investigation as well as the recruiting of many others to help find the freckle-faced girl whose missing person posters once graced lamp posts and store fronts across the region.

Despite a large reward and several suspects being questioned over the years, no arrests have been made.

You showed great generosity and a great solidarity in the horror we're living.

Facebook post attributed to Cedrika's grandfather

Cedrika Provencher. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

Cedrika was last seen being approached by an adult to help search for a missing black and white dog on the evening of July 31. She was never seen again.

On Sunday, a Facebook post attributed to Cedrika's grandfather Henri Provencher thanked the public for helping the family to look for the girl.

"Despite the pain and broken heart, I want to thank from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of Cedrika's family all the population, police, media, and numerous volunteers who helped and participated in the search from near and far," said the post on the Facebook page dedicated to Cedrika.

"You showed great generosity and a great solidarity in the horror we're living."

Martin Prud'homme, the director-general of the Quebec provincial police, would not elaborate on whether or not police had any new leads, saying only the case was "progressing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTING HITCHED?

FIRST 100 GROOMS GET A FREE SUIT*

Grooms, now you can actually help with the wedding planning. Call to secure your free suit in our Vancouver Showroom: **604.336.7674**

INDOCHINO
MADE TO MEASURE

*Visit join.indochino.com/groomoffer/ for details

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED

On behalf of its members, BCTIA wishes to congratulate the Government of British Columbia for recognizing the importance of the technology industry in creating jobs & growing BC's economy.

#1 FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRY SECTOR

3RD IN NEW JOB CREATION

3RD LARGEST IN GDP CONTRIBUTION

$23B IN ANNUAL REVENUE

86,000 BC TECH WORKERS

9,000+ BC TECH COMPANIES

The province's #BCTECH Strategy marks a milestone for the growth of a strong and diversified BC economy. We appreciate the collaborative approach of government in the creation of this strategy.

As a member-driven community, the BC Technology Industry Association (BCTIA) brings together emerging and mature technology companies from five main areas: Information and Communications Technology; CleanTech; Health and MedTech; Digital Media; and Professional Services.

Together, we are the fastest growing industry sector in BC, representing over 86,000 workers, in more than 9,000 companies, generating over $23 billion in annual revenues.

Our aim is to make BC the best place in the world to grow technology companies, period. To achieve this goal, we believe there are four priority areas where action is needed: Access to Capital; Investment in Talent; Market Development and Government Procurement; and Acceleration of tech company growth.

We are proud to lead the effort to promote positive policy changes that create jobs, grow companies, and ensure more British Columbians can benefit from this creative and vibrant sector.

As we celebrate this next step towards a strong and diversified economy, we invite the BC technology community – and all British Columbians – to celebrate with us.
To learn more, visit www.bctia.org.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE BCTIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

acl · CounterPath · Deloitte. · Electronic Arts · Farris (Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP) · Hootsuite · IIT · MDA · SAP · Schneider Electric · TELUS · Traction on Demand · VisionCritical

BCTIA
BC Technology Industry Association

bctia.org

Lawyer seeks remission order

The CRA says Ramona Dunn, seen in front of her home in Exeter, Ont., **owes $94,000 in back taxes.** TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RESERVES

CRA wants aboriginal employees to pay back taxes

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has been aggressively collecting back taxes from a group of mostly low-income indigenous women who lost a long-running legal battle to be exempt from paying personal income taxes because their employer was situated on a reserve.

Native Leasing Services, an employee outsourcing company that has its headquarters on Six Nations of the Grand River, a reserve near Brantford, Ont., is seeking a remission order from National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier — who would have to recommend it to cabinet for approval — on behalf of 3,916 former employees.

"Most of the applicants live on or near the poverty line ... A large portion of these employees will never be able to pay the tax assessments that have been made against them," Jim Fyshe, a lawyer working pro-bono for Native Leasing Services, wrote in the application for a remission order filed in June 2013.

The employees, whose annual income at Native Leasing Services averaged about $27,000, according to Fyshe, are being pursued by collections officers who are putting liens on their homes, garnishing their wages and clawing back benefits for years of personal income taxes after the courts supported a decision by Canada Revenue Agency to reinterpret the Indian Act.

> **Never in a million years would I have thought they would go after me.**
> Ramona Dunn

One of them is Ramona Dunn, 53, who the CRA says owes nearly $94,000 in taxes, fines and interest for the five years she worked as a registered nurse and diabetes educator at Anishnawbe Health Toronto, where she was technically an employee of Native Leasing Services.

Dunn said she took the job at the non-profit agency for a smaller salary than she would have earned at a hospital.

"I was willing to work for less money than my skill set would have given for me just for the chance of working in my community and helping my people," Dunn said, adding the tax exemption, which she still believes she has a right to as a status Indian, helped make up some of the difference in take-home pay.

Now Dunn, whose severe arthritis prevents her from working full time, has remortgaged her home and the CRA threatens to put a lien on her property.

CRA spokesman Philippe Brideau said they could not comment on individual cases due to privacy, but said remission orders are considered on a case-by-case basis. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INNOVATION

Redesigned grinder cuts marijuana rather than mulches it

A group of Winnipeg entrepreneurs are busting their way into the marijuana scene by reinventing a 110-year-old design called The Clipper.

Matt Olsen said he, Greg Moneta and Jesse Marr came up with the idea to create a brand new and innovative "herb" grinder.

Olsen said the idea stems from complaints of traditional grinder users.

In addition, Olsen said his small group identified 30 brands — many of which were manufacturing their own grinders — but were all producing the same thing with subtle variations.

"We threw out that entire design," said Olsen. "We decided to go with an entirely different method we felt solved a lot of problems associated with the old version."

The biggest difference is a rotating stainless-steel blade and a patented wedge design that the group says cuts herbs rather than mulches them and drastically reduces user effort.

The Clipper with its newly designed blades. CONTRIBUTED

The product's users, such as Keely Middleton, said they are noticing a difference.

"The blade is a game changer because it doesn't build up resin in the teeth and hinder the ability to turn and grind," said Middleton. "My favourite part just has to be the overall look of it."

Olsen and Marr said they're in the midst of a crowdfunding campaign via Indiegogo. They're now in the last two-week push to hit $25,000. So far they've raised $16,000.

"We're looking for people who are interested in being the first adopter," said Olsen. "It's significantly discounted from what it will retail at ... This gives people an opportunity to be the first ones to receive it."

The group said it is in partnership with Lift Innovations and has already been approached by distributors who want to carry the product.

Olsen and Marr said they are looking to establish an e-commerce store and are building a worldwide distribution plan.

EVAN MATTHEWS/FOR METRO

IN STORE & ONLINE
TODAY ONLY
TOPS
40% OFF
*Discount applied to the original ticket price. Select items only. Some exceptions may apply.

URBAN PLANET
www.urban-planet.com
Find a store near you online.

MYANMAR POLITICIAN LAUNCHES CLEANUP DRIVE Leader of National League for Democracy party (NLD) Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, picks garbage during a cleanup drive initiated by Suu Kyi in Kawhmu, Myanmar on Sunday. Suu Kyi led the garbage collection on early foggy Sunday in Kawhmu township of Yangon region, where she won her seat for the Lower House in the country's general election. GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conservatives trump National Front surge

FRANCE

Marine Le Pen fails to take a single region in election

Marine Le Pen's far-right National Front collapsed in French regional elections Sunday, failing to take a single region after dominating the first round of voting, pollsters projected. The conservatives surged against the governing Socialists, changing the political map of France.

The failure of the National Front to gain any of the six regions where it was leading didn't stop the anti-immigration party from looking to the 2017 presidential election — Le Pen's ultimate goal.

Le Pen had been riding high after extremist attacks and an unprecedented wave of migration into Europe, and the party came out on top in the voting in France's 13 newly drawn regions in the first round a week ago. But projections by France's major polling firms suggested the party lost in all of the regions Sunday, including decisive losses for both Le Pen and her popular niece.

"Here we stopped the progression of the National Front," said conservative Xavier Bertrand, who was projected to beat Le Pen in the Nord-Pas de Calais region.

> **Nothing will stop us.**
> Marine Le Pen

Le Pen supporters in a hall in the gritty northern town of Henin-Beaumont booed his image on a big screen as he spoke. The atmosphere was grim, in stark contrast to a week earlier when Le Pen won more than 40 per cent of the vote — and was more than 15 points ahead of Bertrand.

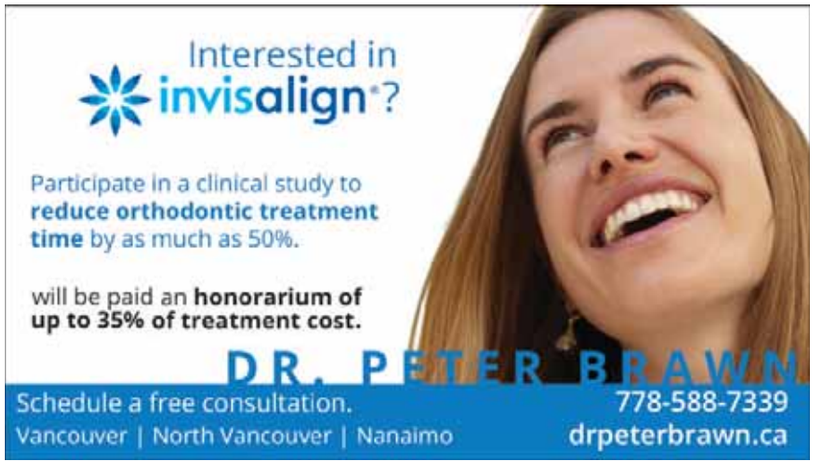
The tables turned on Sunday as Bertrand beat Le Pen by nearly 15 points.

Le Pen struck an upbeat tone despite the rout, pledging to keep fighting to expand support for her party. She said she would in the coming weeks "rally all the French, of all origins, who want to join us."

"Nothing will stop us," she told cheering supporters.

Le Pen won 42.8 per cent compared with Bertrand's 57 per cent, according to the Interior Ministry. Le Pen's niece, Marion Marechal-Le Pen, took 46 per cent in the southern Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, compared with 53.7 per cent for conservative Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Interested in invisalign®?
Participate in a clinical study to reduce orthodontic treatment time by as much as 50%.
will be paid an honorarium of up to 35% of treatment cost.
DR. PETER BRAWN
Schedule a free consultation.
Vancouver | North Vancouver | Nanaimo
778-588-7339
drpeterbrawn.ca

GIVING YOU THE *gift of savings* this HOLIDAY SEASON WE'RE PLAYING *match maker*

To make the season easier and merry, get all your groceries in one place. From turkey to tofu, bring in any competitor's advertised flyer price on any identical item we carry and we'll match it. **Now that's going the extra mile!**

WE MATCH all competitor flyer prices*

save on foods

***Valid until Dec. 24, 2015:**
If a major competitor within our geographical trade area offers a lower advertised price on any identical grocery item (brand, size, etc.), we will match the competitor's price only during the effective date of the competitor's advertisement. 'Major competitors' and 'geographical trade areas' are determined solely by us and are based on a number of factors which can change from time to time. Excludes 'multi-buys' (eg: 2 for $4), 'spend x get x ', 'Free', percentage discounts and discounts obtained through loyalty programs. You must bring in the competitor's advertisement to our customer service desk prior to the expiry of the advertisement in order for us to provide you with the price match. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

The slogan "DECARBONIZE" is projected on the Eiffel Tower as part of the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on Dec. 11. FRACOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plan puts planet on major 'carbon diet'

ENVIRONMENT

Close to 200 nations sign on to ambitious Paris eco-pact

The world is about to go on a carbon diet and it won't be easy — or cheap.

Nearly 200 nations worldwide approved a first-of-its-kind universal agreement Saturday to wean Earth off fossil fuels and slow global warming.

On Sunday morning, as with many first day dieters, the reality set in. The numbers — like calorie limits and gym time — are daunting.

7.04

Volume of carbon dioxide emissions, in tons, needing to stay in the ground instead of being released to meet the easier of two new goals.

How daunting? Try more than 7.04 billion tons. That's how much carbon dioxide needs to stay in the ground instead of being spewed into the atmosphere for those reductions to happen — if you take the easier of two goals mentioned in Saturday's deal. To get to the harder goal, the number is even larger.

In the pact, the countries pledged to limit global warming to about another degree Celsius — and if they can, only half that much.

A vaguer goal is that by sometime in the second half of the century, man-made greenhouse gas emissions — including methane and other heat-trapping gases as well as carbon dioxide — won't exceed the amount nature absorbs. Earth's complex and ever-changing carbon cycle would have to get back to balance.

In practice, the world will have to emit almost zero greenhouse gases by 2070 to reach the easier goal, or by 2050 to reach the harder one, said John Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

The harder goal — limit warming by another half a degree Celsius — is probably already impossible, said Joeri Rogelj at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria. Most likely the best the world can hope for is overshooting by a few tenths of a degree and then slowly bring the temperature back down to the target. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLIMATE AGREEMENT

'The best chance we have,' Obama says

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry hailed the newly passed international climate change agreement as a major achievement that could help turn the tide on global warming, but got a quick reminder that Republicans will fight it all the way.

Obama said the climate agreement made Saturday night by almost 200 nations "can be a turning point for the world" and credited his administration for playing a key role.

He said the climate agreement "offers the best chance we have to save the one planet we have."

The immediate reaction of leading Republican critics was a stark reminder of the conflict that lies ahead.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Obama is "making promises he can't keep" and should remember that the agreement "is subject to being shredded in 13 months." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We've shown that the world has both the will and the ability to take on this challenge.
U.S. President Barack Obama

FRANCE

Conservatives trump National Front surge

Marine Le Pen's far-right National Front collapsed in French regional elections Sunday, failing to take a single region after dominating the first round of voting, pollsters projected. The conservatives surged against the governing Socialists, changing the political map of France.

The failure of the National Front to gain any of the six regions where it was leading didn't stop the anti-immigration party from looking to the 2017 presidential election - Le Pen's ultimate goal.

Le Pen had been riding high after extremist attacks and an unprecedented wave of migration into Europe, and the party came out on top in the voting in France's 13 newly drawn regions in the first round a week ago. But projections by France's major polling firms suggested the party lost in all of the regions Sunday, including decisive losses for both Le Pen and her popular niece.

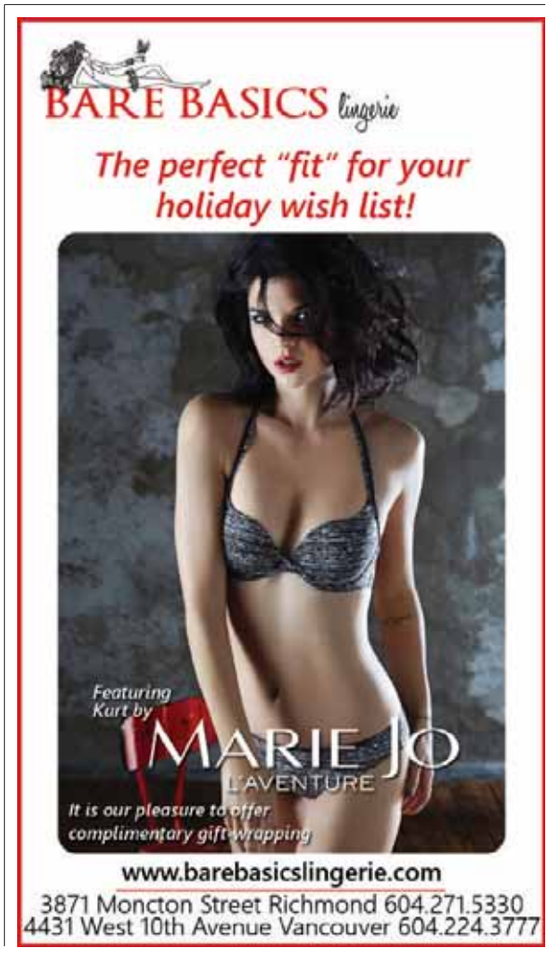
"Here we stopped the progression of the National Front," said conservative Xavier Bertrand, who was projected to beat Le Pen in the Nord-Pas de Calais region.

Le Pen supporters in a hall in the gritty northern town of Henin-Beaumont booed his image on a big screen as he spoke. The atmosphere was grim, in stark contrast to a week earlier when Le Pen won more than 40 per cent of the vote - and was more than 15 points ahead of Bertrand.

"Here we stopped the progression of the National Front
French conservative Xavier Bertrand

The tables turned on Sunday as Bertrand beat Le Pen by nearly 15 points.

Le Pen struck an upbeat tone despite the rout, pledging to keep fighting to expand support for her party. She said she would in the coming weeks "rally all the French, of all origins, who want to join us." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


BARE BASICS lingerie
The perfect "fit" for your holiday wish list!
Featuring Kurt by
MARIE JO
L'AVENTURE
It is our pleasure to offer complimentary gift wrapping
www.barebasicslingerie.com
3871 Moncton Street Richmond 604.271.5330
4431 West 10th Avenue Vancouver 604.224.3777

Liberal deficit could hit $25B

ECONOMY

Government switches talk to debt-to-GDP ratio target

Now that the federal Liberals have shied away from their vow to keep annual deficits under $10 billion, they've latched on to another fiscal target — and this one will be much easier to meet.

The new government is suddenly talking about the debt-to-GDP ratio, promising repeatedly to keep it on a downward track every year until the next election.

The government calculates its debt-to-GDP ratio by dividing total federal debt by the overall size of the economy, as measured by nominal GDP.

It represents a government's capacity to pay back debt — and focusing on it gives politicians more spending flexibility.

By targeting debt-to-GDP, the Liberals could instead be prepared to run annual deficits of up to $25 billion in the coming years and still lower the ratio — as long as the economy grows at a decent pace, economists say.

"The government does have a fair bit of room if what they're trying to do is just see the debt-to-GDP ratio go down," said Mike Moffatt, who teaches economics at the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business School.

The adoption of the debt-to-GDP ratio as a "fiscal anchor" is not new. It was mentioned in the Liberal election platform as one of the ways to keep spending under control. The campaign rhetoric, however, largely focused on the $10-billion annual deficit.

No longer.

With uncosted election promises piling up on top of unforeseen shortfalls in the underlying fiscal plan, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has emphasized the more-reachable fiscal anchor in recent days.

"We will continue to decrease (the debt-to-GDP ratio) every single year because that's important for the fiscal health of our country," Trudeau said Wednesday, after casting further doubt on the $10-billion annual deficit target because of economic challenges. "We always targeted modest deficits, we had hoped it would be around $10 billion — we will see if we will be able to hold at that level."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

0.9%

The government expects nominal GDP for 2015 to only grow by 0.9 per cent largely due to the squeeze of low oil prices, according to its fall fiscal update.

SPACES CANADIANS TURN TO PINT-SIZE HOUSING As home prices soar out of reach for many, a growing number of Canadians are turning to alternative styles of housing — such as this tiny house in Victoria. Alternative styles of housing range from narrow houses to tiny ones to those sandwiched into laneways between other homes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RETAIL

Holidays tricky to market

When something as simple as a red Starbucks cup stirred a controversy stateside over how businesses mark the approach of Christmas, Canadian retailers took notice.

Retailers across the country are well aware that how they market the holidays in an increasingly multicultural society is a sensitive issue. The way in which retailers approach the weeks leading up to the end of the year has evolved over time as businesses respond to customer reactions.

About a decade ago, retailers who didn't want to offend any segment of Canada's multicultural society removed the word Christmas from much of their marketing, said Michael LeBlanc at the Retail Council of Canada.

Businesses now appear to have permission from most Canadians to use the word Christmas as Dec. 25 approaches without it being taken as an affront to those who don't celebrate the occasion, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Advance your career.

Working professionals, like Chris, study part time at BCIT in the evening to advance their careers. With over 1,000 part-time courses available this term, you'll find a flexible, convenient option to help keep your career moving forward.

Learn more.

bcit.ca/pts

BCIT™

ACCOUNT MANAGER, NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Metro Vancouver is looking for an experienced, energetic and motivated sales professional to join our dynamic sales team in Vancouver. Reporting to the Assistant Sales Manager, the successful candidate will utilize creative strategies to customize a broad range of advertising options, both in print and online. The successful candidate will leverage an innovative mindset to support clients in achieving their business objectives while also achieving company set personal monthly and annual targets.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Actively prospect and generate new advertising revenue, both in print and online
- Achieve and exceed allocated sales targets
- Support various Special Feature and Custom Publishing opportunities
- Assist clients with building their brand and/or generating awareness about their products, events and/or services
- Build and maintain strong relationships with new clients
- Respond to client queries and follow-up on all client calls and emails
- Develop and present persuasive presentations
- Log daily sales activity into CRM

We're growing!

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- 2 years of demonstrated success in a similar role
- Some relevant post-secondary education
- Dedication to achieving extraordinary results Excellent oral & written presentation, communication and negotiation skills
- Excellent time management skills, highly organized, detail oriented, efficient, ability to meet tight deadlines, ability to set priorities and manage daily tasks
- Creative and collaborative
- Proficient in Microsoft Office – Word, Excel, PowerPoint & Outlook
- CRM experience is an asset
- Strong sense of accountability
- Must be a team player

If you think you have what it takes for this position, submit your resume and cover letter at https://starmediagroup.workable.com/ no later than December 18th, 2015. PLEASE QUOTE: "Account Manager, New Business Development – Vancouver" in the subject line. We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in this position; however, only those considered for an interview will be contacted. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, December 14, 2015

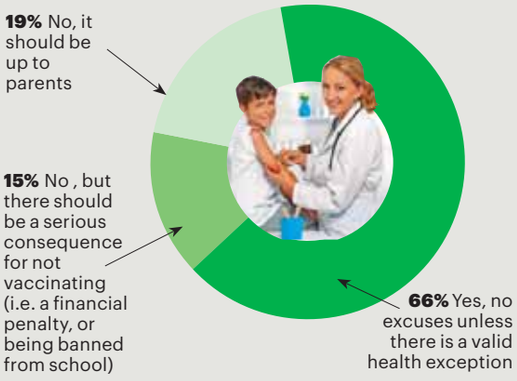
Metro MONDAY POLL

One nation under vaccination

Visit metronews.ca **every Friday to have your say.**

Under a proposed Ontario law, parents will have to attend an education session at the local public-health unit if they want a vaccine exemption for non-medical reasons. Few things have been more explosively controversial — or more maligned — in recent years than vaccinations, though evidence conclusively shows they're safe and effective. In fact, they're so effective that many of us have never personally encountered a vaccine-preventable illness. We asked our readers for forgotten family stories about the fear-filled days before shots prevented some of the most deadly diseases.

1 Should all routine vaccinations be mandatory in Canada?


19% No, it should be up to parents
15% No , but there should be a serious consequence for not vaccinating (i.e. a financial penalty, or being banned from school)
66% Yes, no excuses unless there is a valid health exception

2 How do you keep track of vaccinations for yourself or your family?

41% Old-fashioned paper
36% I trust my doctor, school or health unit to keep track
16% I don't. One of us is probably due for a booster
7% Digitally/ with an app

3 What's your experience with vaccine-preventable diseases?

40% I've never had one & don't know anyone who has.
32% I've suffered from a vaccine-preventable disease.
17% A family member or someone I know has had one.
11% Either myself, someone I know or a family member has suffered permanent effects of a vaccine-preventable disease.

My grandfather was partially paralyzed for life due to polio.

We had to cancel a trip because someone at my son's daycare got chickenpox.

I contracted measles as a small child and was left partly deaf.

I had measles, mumps and chickenpox before there were vaccines. They were all miserable.

WE ASKED Metro readers

Once Uber arrives here, accessibility may suffer

CITY HOLLER
Trish Kelly

I won't be on the welcoming party when the Passenger Transportation Board and Vancouver city council finally give in and permit Uber to operate here, but it's now only a matter of time before we have Uber's app-based, non-professional taxi service in Vancouver.

Surrounding municipalities including Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Langley have passed motions asking the provincial body that regulates all vehicles for hire, to give Uber a pass. An online petition, humbly created by Uber, requesting the service be allowed in B.C., has gathered 52,000 signatures. A public-relations stunt that saw Uber drivers deliver cute puppies to Vancouver offices this summer, and recent national coverage of a Toronto taxi driver losing it on an Uber driver, are all paving the way to public sympathy and support.

Uber's very existence in a market harms the business case for wheelchair-accessible taxis.

There are plenty of reasons why people want to add Uber to the mix of transportation options in the Lower Mainland. An unreliable transit system and the high cost of owning one's own vehicle are two good reasons. For suburbanites, existing suburban taxi fleets are inadequate, and it's hard to convince a downtown cab to drive you back home after a night on the town.

Uber will be bad for taxi companies, we're all clear on that. But there's another group who stands to lose; People who require accessible transportation, our elders with scooters and those confined to wheelchairs. Uber doesn't require its drivers to provide accessible service. Several lawsuits have been filed against Uber drivers in the U.S. for denying service to clients in wheelchairs, and even one case where a driver stowed a guide dog in the car's trunk.

Uber's very existence in a market harms the business case for wheelchair accessible taxis. Vancouver taxi companies are required to provide wheelchair accessible service and currently, 17 per cent of the overall fleet is accessible. Taxi rates charged for accessible van-cabs are the same as for any other cab, though a report presented to Vancouver council in October noted that a van customized for wheelchair access may cost $45,000 compared to the regular used vehicle entering taxi service at $10,000 or less. As Uber siphons off the profitability of conventional taxi companies, it becomes harder and harder to keep accessible cabs on the road.

Not only would fewer accessible taxis harm clients who can afford to call a cab, but low-income users of Translink's HandyDART program could also suffer. During times of peak use, HandyDART often subcontracts trips to private taxi companies, to the tune of 10,000 hours of trips annually. If those cabs disappear, we can't expect Uber to pick up the slack.

In our search for better service, let's not leave those who need accessible service behind.

Trish Kelly lives and writes in East Vancouver. Follow her @trishkellyc

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview

Stumped? I'm here to help with your hard-to-buy-for list

You're very busy, I know.

You have 15 people to buy presents for, and that's not even counting yourself. Sure, you made a trip to the mall, but it took three days to find your way out again (online shopping has decimated your mall-navigation skills).

Well, I'm here to offer a few tips for those hard-to-buy-for listees.

Let's start in the obvious place: Justin Trudeau. Now that he's a sex symbol in the U.S. (those Vogue photos? Grrrr!), he's likely wondering what this means for his future memoir endeavours. Common Ground was a bit of political positioning ahead of the election. It's far too on-the-nose for a sex-symbol memoir, which should include much more innuendo and tongue-in-cheek asides, if not some actual cheek — and thus I recommend you gift him Burt Reynolds' new memoir But Enough About Me (no, not "Butt"). There's apparently a lot more to Burt than his 1970s nude centrefold, and Trudeau, reduced to his broad chest, strong jaw and wavy hair by the U.S. press, may need, one day, to make a similar argument after posing tastefully nude to raise awareness about climate change.

On to the next: Angela Merkel, Time magazine 2015 Person of the Year.

Perhaps you don't speak German or know much about Germany or even how to properly pronounce her name, though it's really not that hard (it's a hard "g"). You perhaps do know that she is considered a modern-day international-diplomacy and left-wing-enough Wonder Woman. Hence, the perfect gift is Jill Lepore's The Secret History of Wonder Woman. There are always lessons for politicians to be found in history, and this book charts Wonder Woman's connection to first-wave feminism and details of her creator's love of S&M. Like I said, much to learn.

Of course your shopping list won't be dealt with purely by a trip to your local, independent bookstore that's been around so long it's practically heritage designated.

So, for the ISIL fighter on your list, you'll need to head online and research the right fine French perfume, or perhaps a Twix chocolate bar. Let me explain: in a recent interview on National Public Radio, a man who'd escaped from an ISIL-controlled town detailed the fascination ISIL fighters have with Western goods, even luxury cars. So if you can afford it, splurge on a Ferrari.

And there you have it: Christmas made easy! Happy shopping and ho ho ho!

metro
Your essential daily news

STAR MEDIA GROUP PRESIDENT
John Cruickshank
VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR
Cathrin Bradbury
VICE PRESIDENT & GROUP PUBLISHER METRO WESTERN CANADA
Steve Shrout
MANAGING EDITOR VANCOUVER
Jeff Hodson
ADVERTISER INQUIRIES
adinfovancouver@metronews.ca
General phone 604-602-1002
FREE TO SHARE

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

NEW **Philosopher cat now at www.mymetrostore.ca**

2015 MASSIVE CLEARANCE

UP TO 40% OFF ORIGINAL MSRP

ONLY AT THE EAGLE!

EAGLE RIDGE GM SAVES YOU MONEY!

2015 CHEVY CRUZE LT TURBO

6-SPEED AUTO/ REMOTE START/ ONSTAR/ 7" SCREEN/AIR/ REAR VISION CAMERA/ LOADED

35 LEFT

$13,887 or $85 PMT

#6867

2015 CHEVROLET SONIC LT

SUNROOF/ BLUETOOTH/ 6-SPEED AUTO/ REAR VISION CAMERA/ 7"COLOUR SCREEN/ AIR/ LOADED

28 LEFT

$13,887 or $85 PMT

#149422

100 2015 SILVERADO + SIERRA CREW CAB

IN STOCK

up to $15,000 DISCOUNT *OR* 0% FOR 84 MONTHS

#58435A

2015 CHEVY TRAX SUV

50 LEFT

up to $4,000 DISCOUNT *OR* 0% FOR 84 MONTHS

#55448A

2015 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD

LOADED/ BLUETOOTH/ ONSTAR/ 6-SPEED AUTO/ ALLOYS

$21,787 or $137 PMT

#6775

2015 CHEVY MALIBU LT

BLUETOOTH /ONSTAR/6-SPEED AUTO/ 7" SCREEN/ ALLOYS

$16,887

#6509

2015 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500 CARGO

AIR/ WELL EQUIPED/4.8L LOADED

$29,897 or $189 PMT

#6956

2015 CHEVY SILVERADO 3500 HD CREW 4WD

AUTO TRANS/ ONSTAR/ LOADED/ BLUETOOTH/ ALLISON TRANSMISSION

DURAMAX DIESEL

OVER $20K SAVINGS

$53,987

#6952

2015 GMC TERRAIN AWD

6-SPEED AUTO/ BLUETOOTH/ REAR VISION CAMERA/ 7" COLOUR SCREEN/ LOADED

$23,897 or $150 PMT

#6783

EAGLE RIDGE

Chevrolet | Buick | GMC

2595 Barnet Highway, Coquitlam (2 blocks west of Coquitlam Centre)

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

All prices & payments are net of all incentives and are plus taxes, levies and $495 documentation fee and $100 air conditioning tax. Vehicles are not exactly as illustrated. All financing is OAC. All payments based on $2,000 DP, 96 mo. term calculated bi-weekly at 4.99% APR. TP: '15 Cruze $19,764, '15 Sonic $18,531, '15 Equinox $27,380, '15 Express, '15 Terrain $29,844.

HUNDREDS OF 2014 & 2015 MODELS PURCHASED

SAVE THOUSANDS ON THESE LOW KM SPECIALS

2015 HYUNDAI VELOSTAR
6 SPEED, AUTO, BLUETOOTH, HEATED SEATS, LED SCREEN, AIR, REAR CAMERA, SUNROOF

$19,987 or $125 PMT

#6793

2014 HYUNDAI ACCESS GLS
AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, POWER OPTIONS, BLUETOOTH

$10,987 or $65 PMT

#6785

2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
AUTO, BLUETOOTH, AIR, POWER OPTIONS, CRUISE, KEYLESS,

$12,887 or $78 PMT

#6875

2014 HYUNDAI SONATA
AUTO, AIR, HEATED SEATS, BLUETOOTH, KEYLESS, LOADED

$13,887 or $85 PMT

#6838

2014 TOWN & COUNTRY
POWER SLIDING DOORS, MEDIA CONTROL, SPORTY MAG WHEELS, LOADED

$18,688 or $116 PMT

#6160

2014 NISSAN SENTRA
AUTO, AIR, LOADED

$13,887 or $85 PMT

#6823

2015 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV 4WD
7 PASSENGER, AUTO, AIR, LOADED, HEATED SEATS AND STEERING WHEEL

$29,897 or $189 PMT

#6893

2015 NISSAN ROGUE AWD
AUTO, AIR, LOADED, MAGS

$23,987 or $150 PMT

#6970

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA
REAR VIEW CAMERA, REMOTE START, LOADED, POWER SEATS, CRUISE

$16,588 or $103 PMT

#6715

2015 DODGE RAM CREW 2500 4WD

$39,887 or $255 PMT

#6951

2014 KIA RIO 5
AUTO, AIR, LOADED

$12,887 or $78 PMT

#6967

2014 KIA RONDO
AUTO, AIR, LOADED

$14,987 or $92 PMT

#6723

2014 KIA OPTIMA
LUXURY SEDAN, LOADED, AUTO

$14,987 or $92 PMT

#6758

2015 JEEP COMPASS 4WD
AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, LOADED

$18,887 or $118 PMT

#6879

2015 JEEP PATRIOT 4WD
STEERING WHEEL, CONTROLS, AUTO, AIR, LOADED

$18,887 or $118 PMT

#6884

2014 CHEVROLET ORLANDO LT
AUTO, AIR, LOADED, CRUISE

$15,987 or $99 PMT

#9781

2014 CHEVY MALIBU LT
AUTO, AIR, LOADED, CRUISE

$15,887 or $99 PMT

#6736

2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE LT TURBO
TURBO CHARGE, AUTO, AIR, LOADED, CRUISE, KEYLESS, REMOTE START

$12,887 or $78 PMT

#6767

2015 MITSUBISHI RVR SE 4WD
AUTO, AIR, LOADED, HEATED SEATS, ECO DRIVE

$20,887 or $130 PMT

#6892

2015 FORD ESCAPE 4WD
AUTO, AIR, LOADED, ALLOYS

$21,787 or $137 PMT

#6746

BUYS OF THE WEEK!

1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT .....$1,787 #0520

2007 CHRYSLER 300 LIMITED .....$5,888 #6629

2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE .....$5,888 #6205

2005 DODGE MAGNUM .....$6,888 #6339

2006 NISSAN ALTIMA .....$8,787 #6596

2007 DODGE CHARGER .....$8,887 #6022

2008 KIA MAGENTIS .....$8,887 #6618

2006 CHRYSLER 300C .....$8,888 #1502

2009 HYUNDAI TUCSON .....$9,888 #8420

2011 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT .....$9,977 #6396

2007 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED 4WD .....$11,588 #6412

2006 CHEVY SILVERADO EXT 4WD .....$11,888 #8564

2009 VW JETTA TDI .....$11,888 #6533

2015 MERCEDES FORTWO PASSION .....$12,888 #6434

2012 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE SPYDER .....$14,995 #0655

2010 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT AWD .....$19,787 #5607

2014 DODGE RAM 1500 TRADESMAN .....$21,888 #8247

NEW CAR HOTLINE
604-507-6686
USED CAR HOTLINE
604-543-1829

www.eagleridgegm.com

DL#8214

All prices & payments are net of all incentives and are plus taxes, levies and $495 documentation fee and $100 air conditioning tax. Vehicles are not exactly as illustrated. All financing is OAC, 96 mo. term calculated bi-weekly at 4.99% APR.TP: '15 Altima $21,556, '14 Town & Country $22,909, '14 Cruze $17,411, '14 Sonata $18,531, '15 Escape $27,380, '15 Veloster $25,364, '15 Compass $24,131, '15 Patriot $24,131, '14 Durango $20,884, '14 Malibu $20,884, '14 Accent $15,255, '14 Elantra $17,411, '14 Sentra $18,531, '14 Optima $19,764, '15 Ram $47,651, '15 Pathfinder $36,463, '15 Rogue $29, 844, '15 RVR $26,372, '14 RIO $17,411, 2014 Rondo $19,764.

metro LIFE
Your essential daily news

Nailed it! Kerry Washington is OPI's new creative ambassador

Your Star Wars primer

Frozen in carbonite for the last 38 years? Recently returned from exile on Dagobah? You can still turn your watercooler into the Mos Eisley Cantina with this Star Wars 101 crash course, just in time for The Force Awakens on Dec. 18. **COLIN MCNEIL/METRO**

In four days, the Force will awaken for the first time in a decade.

A new Star Wars movie is coming out, and in case you haven't heard, advance ticket sales have shattered records. Star Wars-branded merchandise has already done $1 billion in sales — and no one's even seen the movie yet.

But after 38 years, six feature-length films and more novels, comics and TV shows than you can shake a lightsaber at, why is the world going crazy for another Star Wars movie?

Well, for one thing, George Lucas had nothing to do with it, having sold the franchise to Disney for a cool $4 billion in 2012. And believe it or not, that's a relief to many diehard fans.

They had their hearts broken when Lucas decided to alter his original masterpieces in the 1990s by inserting gratuitous computer animation and changing essential details in character-defining scenes (read: Greedo shooting first).

Then there's the nostalgia factor. The last time anyone got this excited for a new Star Wars movie, we got Jar Jar Binks and a sour taste in our mouths for the price of admission. But those were the prequels — weird, lame prequels that took some of our favourite characters and ideas, and blew them up like the Death Star blew up Alderaan.

To that end, Disney has very

consciously tried to entwine this new film with the classics we all know and love. The trailers are light on new characters, heavy on X-Wings, Han and Chewie, and goosebump-inducing shots of the Millennium Falcon.

So for every fan who's been holding on to their VHS copies of the original trilogy, for every kid that came out of the theatre in 1999 confused and disappointed, The Force Awakens has been a long time coming.

Follow Colin McNeil on Twitter @McNeilColin

STAR WARS A TIMELINE OF THE UNIVERSE

Grab the popcorn and tell your protocol droid to hold your calls. We've got the ultimate, chronologically ordered Star Wars watchlist.

• ALL FIGURES REPRESENT TOTAL LIFETIME DOMESTIC GROSS

MAY 19, 1999

Ep. I: The Phantom Menace

Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Qui-Gon Jinn battle an evil Sith Lord called Darth Maul. Meanwhile, a young slave named Anakin Skywalker discovers his latent abilities in the Force.

GROSS $474,544,677

MAY 16, 2002

Ep. II: Attack of the Clones

Ten years later, Obi-Wan begins to unravel dark threads hinting at machinations behind a separatist war within the Galactic Republic, while Anakin falls in love with the former Queen of the planet he helped save as a boy.

GROSS $310,675,583

2003, 2008

Clone Wars

Two separate cartoon shows, Star Wars: Clone Wars (2003) and Star Wars: The Clone Wars (2008) bridge the three-year gap between Episodes II and III.

GROSS N/A

MAY 19, 2005

Ep. III: Revenge of the Sith

After a Sith Lord called Darth Sidious seizes the Republic in a political coup, he orders all Jedi exterminated. Embracing the dark side of the Force, Anakin joins him and becomes Darth Vader.

GROSS $380,262,555

2014, 1985

Rebels; Droids; and Ewoks

Three separate animated series, Rebels chronicles the genesis of the rebellion against the Galactic Empire, Ewoks follows a cast of the cuddly critters, and Droids the beloved characters C-3PO and R2-D2.

GROSS N/A

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 All in the family

The ties that bind the Star Wars universe — through its soon-to-be seven films, myriad novels and television shows — are familial ones. The story begins with a young Anakin Skywalker, who (spoiler alert!) grows into a Jedi Knight, falls to the Dark Side, and is defeated by his own children, Luke and Leia.

And it gets much deeper: Luke's mentors are the same as his father's, his droid companion C-3PO was built by his father. Darth Sidious (a.k.a Emperor Palpatine) hails from the same planet as Luke's mother.

With The Force Awakens set 30 years after Return of the Jedi, and a slew of new characters, it's a safe bet the Skywalker and Solo family trees will grow more branches.

Just who are they and how are they related to the Skywalker legacy? Not even Jedi clairvoyance could reveal that.

2 The Force?

Obi-Wan Kenobi called the Force an "energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together." That's the philosophical view.

The prequel trilogy, much to the displeasure of many Star Wars fans, boiled the Force down to quantifiable, microscopic particles called midi-chlorians. The higher a being's midi-chlorian count, the more potentially powerful they could be in the ways of the Force.

There are two very broad categories of Force users — light side and dark side. The light side of the Force is all about peace, love and knowledge. Namaste.

The dark side are the naughty ones — they use raw emotions like anger, fear and even love as their power base.

3 Empire vs. Rebellion

The bad guys in the original Star Wars trilogy, and likely in The Force Awakens, are the Galactic Empire — a totalitarian regime ruled by a Sith lord. The Empire is a xenophobic, militant organization that enforces its rule of law with blaster rifles and storm troopers. In past films, they have committed mass genocide on a planetary scale.

The rebellion is a group of volunteer freedom fighters who stand against the Empire, trying to restore the Republic of old. Always outnumbered and outgunned, they fought a desperate battle against the Empire, finally toppling it thanks in large part to a young man named Luke Skywalker. From what we know from the Episode VII trailers, The Empire, or a splinter of it, has survived decades after the fall of the second Death Star.

MAY 25, 1977

Ep. IV: A New Hope

Luke Skywalker, son of Anakin, joins a rebellion against what is now the Galactic Empire — a totalitarian regime ruled by Darth Vader and his master, Sidious. Luke befriends smuggler Han Solo and rebellion leader Princess Leia.

GROSS $460,998,007

JUNE 20, 1980

Ep. V: The Empire Strikes Back

Luke trains with the last of the Jedi masters — Yoda — in preparation for his battle with Darth Vader, while Han Solo and Leia are betrayed by an old friend. Vader reveals he is Luke's father.

GROSS $290,158,751

MAY 25, 1983

Ep. VI: Return of the Jedi

While Luke confronts his father and Emperor Palpatine personally, Han and Leia help rebel forces topple the Empire once and for all in a climactic space battle.

GROSS $309,125,409

1970S TO PRESENT

The lost storylines

For decades between the films, fans have sated their appetite for Star Wars with an entire galaxy of novels and comics. These books have now been officially de-canonized by Disney, leaving many beloved storylines in timeline purgatory.

GROSS N/A

DEC. 18, 2015

Ep. VII: The Force Awakens

The exact plot details of Episode VII are a closely guarded secret, but we do know Luke, Han and Leia feature in it, alongside new protagonists and a sinister looking Sith called Kylo Ren. It takes place 30 years after Episode VI.

PRE-SALE GROSS $50,000,000+

WHO'S WHO

Droids

A catchall term for robots, shorthand for androids. Anything made of metal that moves around, bleeps and bloops or speaks is a droid. Though sentient, they possess no inherent rights or freedoms as beings.

Stormtroopers

The mainstay of the Empire's foot soldiers, these iconically armoured warriors have been present in nearly every Star Wars film. And yes, they're human beings underneath the armour.

Sleek spaceships

Almost true characters themselves, Star Wars symbolism is rife with iconic spaceships like the rough and tough Millennium Falcon, the darkly sleek Tie fighters, and the rebels' go-to space fighter of choice, the X-Wing.

Sith

The evil antithesis to the Jedi, they harness the power of the Dark Side of the Force. There can be only two Sith in existence at one time — a master, and an apprentice. These guys wield red lightsabers and adopt a 'decapitate first, ask questions later' attitude.

Jedi

Somewhere between medieval knights of Arthurian legend and mystic druids, Jedi are Force users who tap into the light side, using their power only for defence and knowledge.

COLIN MCNEIL/ METRO

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Miley Cyrus with George Clooney, left, and Bil Murray in A Very Murray Christmas. CONTRIBUTED

Miley puts the merry in Murray Christmas

THE SHOW A VERY MURRAY CHRISTMAS (NETFLIX)

THE MOMENT THE MILEY MIRACLE

For 40 minutes, we've watched people be sad. Bill Murray has the Christmas blues. A snowstorm has kept his guests from showing up at Manhattan's Carlysle Hotel to tape his holiday special. He trades barbs with his agents (Amy Poehler and Julie White). He talks to a distressed bride and groom (Rashida Jones and Jason Schwartzman).

Finally, something magical happens: Murray passes out, and into his dream, on a sleigh, rides… Miley Cyrus. She wears a fur-trimmed red mini with matching pumps. She sits on a white grand piano and belts out Silent Night. She saves Christmas — and Murray's ass.

I'm not saying there isn't a place for sadness during the holidays. There is. But this is ironic sadness, and Christmas and irony do not go well together. You end up feeling nothing.

Murray, director Sophia Coppola, and writer Mitch Glazer clearly are enamoured with the random nature of holiday specials — how celebs just show up and sing. Unfortunately, they don't seem to realize that the randomness had a point: the singing (example: Bing Crosby and David Bowie's famous duet of The Little Drummer Boy). This has entirely too much croaking. It's an un-special.

Also, it may be heretic for me to say this, but I'm growing weary of Murray. He was smart to dole himself out sparingly all these years. When you see too much of him, you realize how thin his schtick is. His natural role is sending out quips from the sidelines. Miley is a star.

SOUNDING JOY
Bill Murray's "natural role is sending out quips from the sidelines. Miley is a star."

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

ANIMATED HOLIDAY SPECIAL

A Nutcracker story with a lot of puck

Only in Canada would an animated The Nutcracker special be given a hockey twist.

The Curse of Clara: a Holiday Tale is based on Vickie Fagan's autobiographical short story recalling her days dancing in The Nutcracker for the National Ballet of Canada. The year is 1972 and a young ballerina reaches into the hockey world for inspiration — specifically, a legendary Canada-U.S.S.R showdown.

One of the stars of that unforgettable series was former Boston Bruins scoring ace Phil Esposito. The centreman led the NHL professionals to a come-from-behind win against the perennial Olympic hockey champs from what was then known as the Soviet Union. In the special, Esposito's heroics — and charisma — inspire a young ballerina to dance to her goal.

Esposito lends his voice to the special along with veteran Hockey Night in Canada play-by-play announcer Bob Cole — who called the actual Summit Series on radio that September of 1972 — former prima ballerina Karen Kain, Sheila McCarthy, Sara Botsford and Saara Chaudry.

The special premieres Dec. 14 on CBC. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey meets ballet in The Curse of Clara. SMILEY GUY STUDIOS

WILE E. ESPOSITO
Asked what cartoon character he most relates to, Esposito laughed and said, "Wile E. Coyote — except he got beat up all the time!"

The first step to establishing rapport with someone is awareness. Be mindful of body language, breathing mood, and try to play off that, advises life coach Niurka. ISTOCK

The skill you need to get what you want

ADVICE

The key to negotiating with and influencing people? Rapport

Raquel Laneri
Metro | New York

One of the most popular self-help books ever written is called How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie, and, frankly, it's no wonder: Who doesn't want to will others into doing what one wants, whether through one's presence, words or sheer charisma?

Well, life coach Niurka — yes, just Niurka, like Madonna and Cher — says the key to such persuasiveness, and to one's empowerment, is communication, and there's one very important component to that: rapport.

"Rapport is essential in all negotiations, because when there's rapport the decision-maker will want to work with you, even if you're not saying the perfect thing," says Niurka, whose new book is Supreme Influence: Change Your Life with the Power of the Language You Use. But creating rapport is a subtle art: you can't exactly fake affinity, or chemistry. We asked the expert for her advice on establishing that kind of connection.

Be aware

The first step to establishing rapport is awareness: after all, you have to be self-aware enough to know when you aren't establishing a rapport with someone, or when you lose it. "Oftentimes people communicate too soon," she says. "They're so in tune with what they want to say rather than being totally present with the person and the situation." Notice your target's body language, her breathing, her mood, and try to play off that.

Care about the bigger picture

When talking to a boss or supervisor, don't make it about you, you, you. "You have to authentically care about the bigger picture, not just your agenda," advises Niurka. "Before you go in ask yourself not just 'What do I want?' or 'How can I get what I want in this conversation?' but 'What's important to this person, to this company as a whole?'"

Ask questions

One important — and easy — way to establish rapport and show that you genuinely care about the other person's needs and concerns is to ask questions. "Say: 'I'm curious about what's working, or what isn't working,' in terms of a particular context — or, 'If you can change one thing in this department what would it be?'" suggests Niurka. "You want someone to get passionate and then connect on that point of passion: you don't want to be the one who's passionate and trying to sell them on it. You want them to have a buy-in."

One more thing ...

"When you're going to an important meeting — whether it's one-on-one with your boss or giving a big presentation to a group of people — be clear on your intention, without attachment to outcome," says Niurka. "You don't want to get tunnel vision, so you've got to be clear what is the essence of what it is that you're inspired to create or achieve and then be open to all the different ways you can make that a reality."

$50/mo. GOLD PLAN GETS YOU:
• UNLIMITED Weekends & Evenings from 5pm
• UNLIMITED Worldwide Text Messaging from Canada
• UNLIMITED Picture Messaging to Canada & US
• 300 Canada-Wide Minutes
• 300 MB of Data
• Voicemail & Call Display
*$4.99 SIM CARD NOT INCLUDED.
SAMSUNG
Samsung GALAXY A5
Virgin mobile
IT'S BETTER TO BE A MEMBER

Limited time offer. Services available with compatible devices. *Available with new activation on a 2-year agreement. $4.99 SIM Card not included. Monthly 911 fees apply in: AB (44¢), NB (53¢), NL (75¢), NS (43¢), PEI (70¢), SK (62¢) and QC (40¢). Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. Conditions and restrictions apply for Member Benefits; see virginmobile.ca/benefits for details. Offer and Member Benefits subject to change/cancellation at any time without notice. If you cancel your Commitment Period early, an Early Exit Charge will apply. See your Agreement for details. Unlimited Text and Picture Messaging is only valid when message is sent from Canada. Text messages sent within the U.S. or internationally, premium text messages, text alerts, messages sent with an instant messaging application and dial-up messages are not included in any plan and cost extra. Canada-Wide Calling applies to calls made from Canada to a Canadian number or calls received from any number while you are inside Canada. Additional minutes are 50¢/min. Long distance charges on calls to the U.S. are 50¢/min in addition to your local per minute rate. Additional data is $5/100 MB. Screen image simulated. Phones and some colours may not be available at all retailers. Other restrictions apply; see virginmobile.ca for details. © 2015 Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc. All rights reserved. Samsung and Samsung Galaxy A5 are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc., and/or its related entities, used with permission. The VIRGIN trademark and family of associated marks are owned by Virgin Enterprises Limited and used under license. All other trademarks are trademarks of Virgin Mobile Canada or trademarks and property of the respective owners. © 2015 Virgin Mobile.

Know the cost of home ownership

PLANNING

Your budget needs to cover more than just the mortgage

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Owning a home is an expensive proposition.

People think all you have to do is figure out whether you can afford the mortgage payments and taxes. They're wrong.

Owning a home requires planning and a big commitment in terms of time and money. Lots of people who think that they're ready have seriously miscalculated. And then their dream home turns into a money pit.

Another mistake new homeowners make is not changing anything about the way they spend their money once they move into a place of their own. Sure, their housing costs have gone up, but so what? If you're used to buying whatever you want, whenever you want, and you keep up that bad habit, in no time at all, you'll be floundering.

Time to swap some bad habits for some good ones.

It's sometimes pretty hard to see what you're doing wrong, so it's good to know that your partner will be willing and able to spot your flaws and point them out to you. Ha!

And, of course, the best way to see the error of one's ways is to put a dollar value on the stuff you've been buying.

Whether it's junk food or expensive shampoo, once you add up what that indulgence is costing over the long term, you'll want to stop.

Sometimes even the most obvious misstep can't be avoided simply because people hate giving up on an idea once they've committed to it. That's where doing the math becomes the bright light that makes it clear if you'll make it or not as new homeowners.

Time to make a new budget incorporating all the costs associated with owning a home, and adjusting the amount you'll spend elsewhere to compensate for higher shelter costs.

Add up the mortgage payment, property taxes, condo fees, utilities and insurance. Don't forget to budget between about two per cent (in cities) to four per cent (in the country) of the value of your home for home maintenance every year to keep a house in reasonable shape.

If you have an older home that needs work, you should use the higher number.

Subtract the amount you're currently spending to keep a roof over your head.

The difference — the increase in your shelter costs — has to come from somewhere, so what are you not going to spend money on to have that home of your dreams? Will you give up daily coffee, lunch out, that winter vacation you so look forward to?

Owning a home comes with unexpected costs. Make sure you budget two to four per cent of your home's value for yearly maintenance costs. ISTOCK

Something's gotta give, and here's where you decide what that something (or those somethings) will be.

When you work out how much you'll need in your budget you'll probably choke.

Once you get over your sputtering, know that since your home is likely to be your biggest financial asset, you better take good care of it. From lawn care to repainting every few years, from a new furnace to replacing the roof, home ownership is an expensive business.

If you aren't up for the responsibility, renting is always an option.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

The Cincinnati Bengals were hit hard Sunday; they were beaten 33-20 by Pittsburgh and lost quarterback Andy Dalton to a broken thumb

Crawford keeps Canucks quiet in Blackhawks rout

NHL

Chicago goalie shines as Kane extends points run to 26 games

Patrick Kane found a way to stay on a roll. So did Corey Crawford.

Kane extended his points streak to 26 games, Crawford made 30 saves for his second straight shutout, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Vancouver Canucks 4-0 on Sunday night. Kane, the NHL's leading scorer with 46 points, had the second assist on Duncan Keith's power-play goal midway through the first.

"We're all having fun watching it, enjoying the different fashions that he's been able to keep moving forward," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville said.

Kane could have had more in this one, but the assist was his only mark on the score sheet — and he wasn't exactly sure what happened on the play.

"I think I passed it and it went in 10 or 15 seconds later," Kane said. "I didn't know I had an assist until they announced it. I was hoping they didn't get it wrong and they've got to call it back."

Dennis Rasmussen, Andrew Shaw and Brandon Mashinter all scored late in the third for the Blackhawks, winners of four of five.

Kane surpassed Sidney Crosby's 25-game streak, set in 2010-11, for the longest in the league since 1992-93. The Blackhawks' right wing has 16 goals and 24 assists during his run, and a point in 29 of Chicago's 31 games.

Ryan Miller had 26 saves for the Canucks. Rasmussen made it 2-0 with 8:24 left in the third and Shaw had an empty-netter with 31 seconds remaining.

With Miller back in the net, Mashinter completed the scoring with 10 seconds left with his first NHL goal.

Crawford has four shutouts this season, tied for the league lead with St. Louis' Jake Allen and Minnesota's Devan Dubnyk. "He's been awesome," Chicago's Duncan Keith said. "He's made huge saves when we've needed him, and when he's going like that, it allows us to make more mistakes and play with a little more confidence." Crawford's shutout was the 16th of his career and followed a 25-save effort in a 2-0 win against Winnipeg on Friday. For the second straight time, the goalie credited his team's perfect penalty killing — 3 for 3 against Vancouver — and shot blocking (15).

"Our team is starting to come around," Crawford said. "Our PK is really strong, and it seems like we're just getting better and better here." The Canucks opened a six-game trip on Sunday that continues to Minnesota, Philadelphia, Detroit, Florida and Tampa Bay.

"I thought our guys had a good desire tonight," Canucks coach Willie Desjardins said. "I thought we wanted the game. We did everything we could to win and we just came out on the wrong end of it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNDAY in Chicago

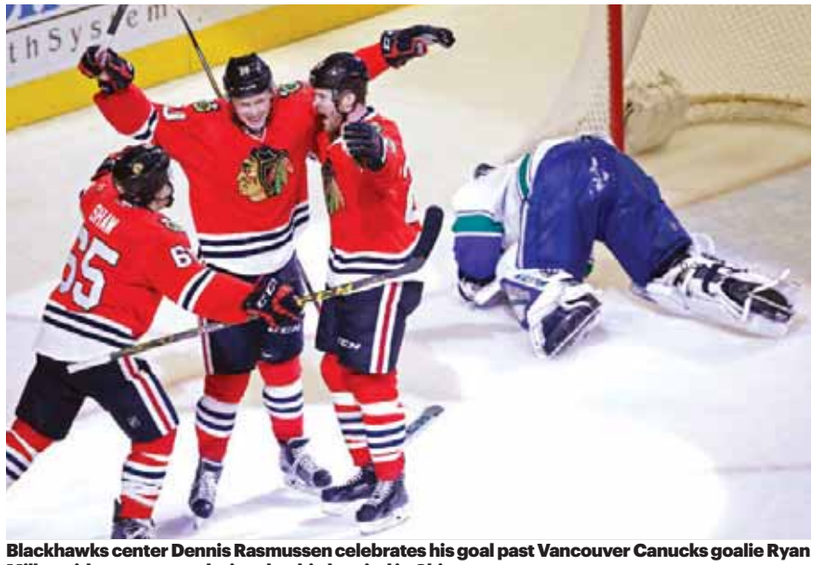
4	0
B'HAWKS	CANUCKS

VIRTANEN

The Canucks have loaned 19-year-old Jake Virtanen to Team Canada for the upcoming World Junior Championship. Virtanen was a member of the 2015 gold-medal winning Canadian junior team.

In 19 games with the Canucks, Virtanen has one goal and four points. After suffering a hip pointer injury, Virtanen was assigned to the AHL on a conditioning assignment.

CAM TUCKER/METRO



Blackhawks center Dennis Rasmussen celebrates his goal past Vancouver Canucks goalie Ryan Miller with teammates during the third period in Chicago. ANDREW A NELLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF

Canada's Svensson qualifies for Tour

Adam Svensson's schedule is going to be a bit more organized in 2016. The Surrey, B.C. native shot a final-round 1-over 72 on Sunday to win the Web.com Tour qualifying tournament by seven shots over Americans Ian Davis and Jason Millard.

The victory gives the Canadian fully-exempt status on the Web.com Tour for the 2016 season. "It's huge being able to pick my schedule instead of booking your flight Monday night before the next event," the 21-year-old said in a phone interview.

Svensson had a 20-under-par 266 total over four rounds at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. It's the second year in a row that a Canadian won the Web.com Tour qualifying tournament with Edmonton's Brad Fritsch capturing the title in 2014. The final round featured high winds but not even the tricky weather or pressure got to Svensson.

"You have nerves on the first tee but after I settled down, I focused on my goal and my game plan throughout the day," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$25,000

Amount of U.S. dollars Svensson earned for his victory.

IN STORE & ONLINE
TODAY ONLY
TOPS
40% OFF
*Discount applied to the original ticket price. Select items only. Some exceptions may apply.

URBAN PLANET
www.urban-planet.com
Find a store near you online.

'Hawks soar past Ravens

NFL

Wilson strikes for 5 TDs in team's 4th straight win

As long as Russell Wilson continues to fling touchdown passes at a dizzying rate, the Seattle Seahawks just might survive their alarming shortage of running backs.

Wilson threw five touchdown passes, three to Doug Baldwin, and Seattle wore down the injury-depleted Baltimore Ravens 35-6 Sunday for its fourth straight victory.

Wilson went 23-for-32 for 292 yards. The five touchdown throws matched a career high — set earlier this season against Pittsburgh — and gave him 16 over his last four games.

Baldwin scored on passes of 14, 22 and 16 yards. Tyler Lockett caught TD throws of eight and 49 yards.

"Guys were making plays all over the field," Wilson said. "And the offensive line is giving me enough time to make those decisions and get the ball out on time."

Seattle (8-5) played most of the game without standout rookie running back Thomas Rawls, who broke his left ankle in the first quarter and is out for the season. Rawls had already gained 47 yards during the Seahawks' first drive when he was hurt on a three-yard loss.

"It doesn't get any tougher than that," Wilson said. "We're going to miss him, but I thought everybody collectively played a great game."

Rawls was replaced by DuJuan Harris, who ran for 42 yards on 18 carries but lost a fumble. Marshawn Lynch, who sits atop the depth chart, missed a fourth straight game with an abdomen injury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STILL PERFECT

Cam Newton completed 15 of 21 passes for 265 yards and three touchdowns, and the unbeaten Carolina Panthers (13-0_ beat the Atlanta Falcons 38-0 to clinch a first-round bye in the NFC playoffs.

Seahawks tight end Luke Willson hurdles Ravens safety Will Hill on Sunday in Baltimore. NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MMA

McGregor all set for superstardom

Gab is just one of Conor McGregor's many gifts.

The Irish star possesses a punching power that has made him an undisputed world champion in just seven UFC fights. McGregor also has an uncanny ability to predict not only the outcome of a fight, but the manner in which he'll accomplish his next feat of pugilistic prowess.

McGregor called his shot well before his featherweight title bout with Jose Aldo at UFC 194, vowing he wouldn't need a full round to stop a champion who hadn't lost in 10 years. And then he delivered that shot to Aldo's jaw to end the fight in just 13 seconds — a little quicker than even he expected.

"Mystic Mac strikes again," McGregor said.

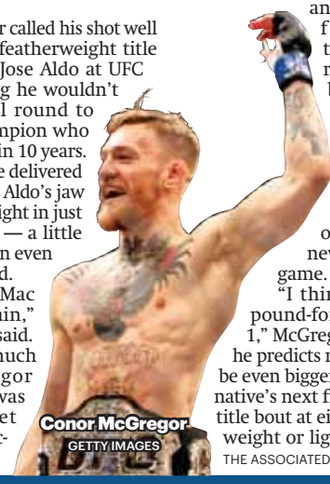
For as much as McGregor talks, he was sure to get some predictions right.

Yet when asked to foresee his own future after he ended Aldo's 18-fight winning streak, McGregor wasn't quite ready.

"I'll give it some time," McGregor said Saturday night.

Indeed, McGregor reigns atop the featherweight division and the sport after a remarkable 2015. He won three fights, made untold millions and raised his fame near the heights reached by Ronda Rousey, who will be featured alongside him on the cover of EA Sports' new UFC video game.

"I think I am the pound-for-pound No. 1," McGregor said. And he predicts next year will be even bigger. The Dublin native's next fight will be a title bout at either featherweight or lightweight.



Conor McGregor GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Service Directory

To advertise call 604.602.1002

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

LOVE DOCTOR PSYCHIC
Now here in Vancouver. The real love guru.
DOES YOUR PARTNER:
• REJECT YOU?
• TREAT YOU INDIFFERENTLY?
• CHEAT ON YOU?
• WANT TO GET SEPARATED OR DIVORECED?
• NO LONGER WANT TO BE INTIMATE WITH YOU?
STOP SUFFERING, I HAVE THE SOLUTION
BRING THE PROBLEM. GET THE SOLUTION.
Call Now: 778.713.5666
TAROT • CRYSTAL • HANDS

HANUMAN ASTROLOGER & PALM READER
Pandit: Durga Prasad
Expert in Palm and Face Reading, Horoscope, Numerology, Vastu Shastra
I CAN TELL YOUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
Marriage * Husband-Wife Problems * Job * Relationship * Kids Problems
Business * Spiritual Evil Effects * Enemy * Court * Property * Family etc.
SPECIALIST IN: BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK
IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS I HAVE 100% GUARANTEED SOLUTIONS
Removes Black Magic, Jadoo, Voodoo, Buttu, Witch Craft & Gives 100% Protection
100% PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL - OPEN 7 DAYS
778-238-8202 / 604-512-2304
6049 Fraser St., Vancouver / 128 St & 80 Ave., Surrey

INDIAN ASTROLOGER
PASSED AWAY FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, NOW IN SURREY, BC
PANDIT VINAYAK
FACE READING • PHOTO READING • 2 HAND READING
BIRTH TIME READING • HOROSCOPE READING
HE CAN HANDLE ANY PROBLEM | BRINGING LOVED ONE BACK
Helps in Job, Love, Business, Sickness, Education, Employment, Marriage, Court, Enemy, Black Magic, Secret Matters, etc.
IMMEDIATE RESULTS & GET LIFELONG PROTECTION | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
100% Guarantee
604-617-8668
12232 80 Ave., Surrey, BC V3W 229 (Near Best Buy)

EMPLOYMENT

skilled immigrant infocentre
Vancouver Public Library
Central Library, Level 4
350 West Georgia Street
Phone: 604-331-3603
Web: skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
Employment information for career decisions
A free service for immigrants to British Columbia
Vancouver Public Library
WelcomeBC

RGIS
An Equal Opportunity Employer
Inventory Counters Wanted
Opportunities we offer:
• Flexible schedules
• No experience necessary
• Paid training
• Higher wages for high performers
• Hourly career path program
Join the Team That Counts. Apply Online WWW.RGIS.COM
Our recruiters will contact you to book an interview.

EVENTS

22nd Annual Women's Winter Faire
December 19/20
11 am to 5 pm
Heritage Hall
3102 Main Street
Showcasing BC women artisans
Sounds & Furies Productions
Door donations benefits Syrian Refugees
See vendors at www.soundsandfuries.com/faire

FINANCIAL

EVER FOREX
BEST EXCHANGE RATES GUARANTEED!
• Money Exchange
• Worldwide Money Transfer
• 24*7 Online Trading
Live Rates: everforex.ca • Toll Free: 1 800 699 4816
LOCATIONS IN VANCOUVER, RICHMOND, BURNABY, SURREY, MARKHAM, TORONTO & WORLDWIDE

HIRING TELEMARKETERS
• 3yrs continuous outbound telephone sales
• Verifiable earnings last 2 yrs (tax returns)
• Salary or Commission Negotiable
• Seniors & Students (part time available)
• Office 4 blocks from Canada Line Station
• $35.00 per hour depending on experience
• Fluent English required
Call Barry or Linda 604 482 3100

RECIPE Spicy Beef Tacos

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

These easy tacos get a zing of heat from chili but a warmth from cumin and cinnamon.

Ready in
Prep time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

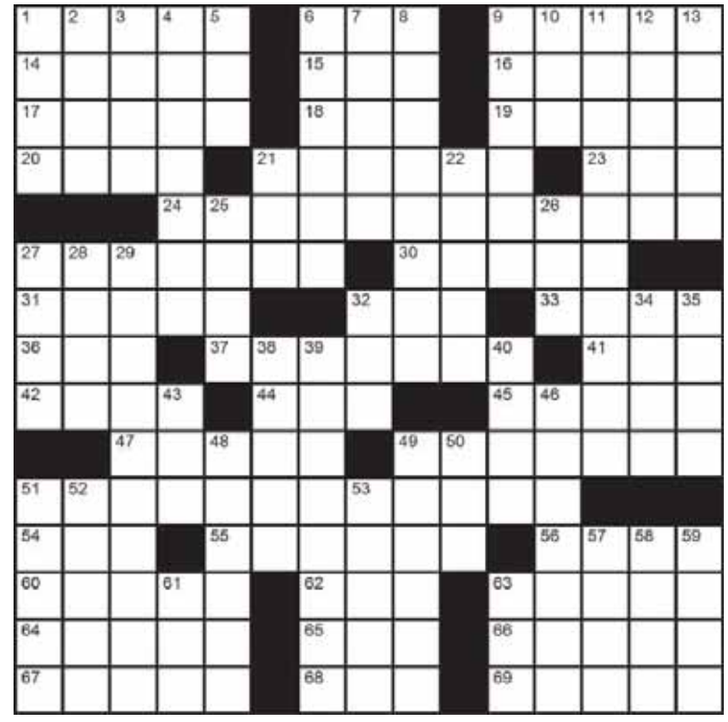
Ingredients
- 1 large sweet potato, diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp salt, divided
- 1 lb organic lean ground beef
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup shaved Monterey Jack cheese
- A handful of chopped fresh cilantro
- Salsa
- 8 corn tortillas, warmed according to package directions

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. In a bowl, toss sweet potato with olive oil and 1/2 tsp salt. Spread sweet potato pieces out in a single layer on a lined baking sheet. Bake in the oven for 5 to 7 minutes. Toss and then bake another 3 to 5 minutes, or until fork tender. Remove potatoes from oven and place in a bowl.
3. In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat until browned, about 10 minutes.
4. In a small bowl, blend chili powder, cumin, cinnamon and dried oregano. Stir into the meat the garlic, spice blend, pepper and remaining salt; cook for another 2 minutes. Remove beef from heat and transfer to serving dish.
5. Place beef, sweet potato, slices of red onion, cheese, fresh cilantro, salsa and tortillas out on the table for taco assembly. Enjoy.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Possessed, in ye olden days
6. Winter roads worry
9. Country legend Johnny's
14. Join
15. Ho! Ho! Ho! X-__ (Dec. 25th)
16. Tear that paper: 2 wds.
17. Concluded
18. Kitty's rival
19. Irish rebel Rory
20. Momentarily
21. __ mustache (Sported by Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)
23. "Whistle __ the Lave O't": Song by Scottish poet Robert Burns
24. Holiday candies by #49-Down celebrating their 130th anniversary: 2 wds.
27. Noncompliant
30. Flair
31. Lagoon-in-the-middle island
32. "__ _ recall..."
33. Stroller, to a Brit
36. Neither's partner
37. Appetizer served with plum sauce: 2 wds.
41. Pasta names suffix
42. 'Within'-meaning prefix
44. Swiss peak
45. Mr. Williams of "Happy Days"
47. Animal of The Andes
49. Doorkeeper
51. What people do when they sign into their e-mail accounts: 2 wds.
54. Bit of food
55. Of bears
56. 'Demo' suffix (Politician sort)
60. Get _ __ (Score in hockey)
62. "How was _ _ know?"
63. The Congo's former name
64. "Irma la __" (1963)
65. Grandma
66. Stick on
67. Fashion show walk
68. Unit of work
69. Bug: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Shades
2. __ Domini (AD)
3. "Thank You" singer
4. Sheet that when painted over reveals a design beneath
5. Bill's bogus buddy
6. Influential effect
7. Shower sealant
8. Starbucks serving
9. Surname of one of Neil Young's bandmates
10. Purpose
11. Cutlery user's slip of the tongue?
12. Just-got-the-job person
13. 'Trick' suffixes
21. Get the glory
22. Up to a certain time
25. Fit, fiddle-style
26. "Superman's Dead" rock gr. from Toronto
27. Stand-up comedian Mr. Cook
28. Collar type
29. Archaeology in New Brunswick... Historic trading post in Saint John: 2 wds.
32. Dadaist Jean
34. Kind of buffalo
35. Duluth's state, for short
38. Nintendo enthusiast
39. Translucent envelope material for storing stamps
40. Tardy
43. Previous
46. Instant coffee brand
48. Protector-from-harm charm
49. Family-owned New Brunswick chocolatier since 1873
50. Bronze __
51. Map's lines, often
52. Grain fungus
53. Ravi Shankar's instrument
57. Fissure
58. Opera offering
59. Communicate, techie-style
61. Prefix with 'puncture'
63. 'Zig' add-on

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Watch your back and think twice before giving anyone the benefit of the doubt. The Sun may be moving through your fellow Fire sign of Sagittarius but so is Saturn, planet of limitation, and that means someone may be working against you.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You may not want to but it's time to give up on a goal that requires the kind of cash you no longer have. Let it go and next time aim for something cheaper.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will get conflicting advice but you know what must be done, so do it. Trust your instincts and hope for the best. The best will happen.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may be tempted to call the bluff of those you are negotiating with and hold out for a better offer but the planets warn that is not a good idea. You would be wise to seal the deal on the terms being offered.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your confidence could slump as Saturn makes it easy to see nothing but grey skies. Your problems may be all in the mind but if you believe bad things are going to happen then they most likely will.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone is refusing to see sense. You tried to point them in the right direction, so if they make a mess of things it's their own fault.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some people may say that you're losing your edge, that you are not as decisive and dynamic as you used to be, but it isn't true. Even a Libra is entitled to relax once in a while.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try not to appear too eager today. If you can give others, especially rivals, the impression that you don't care whether you win or lose you'll lull them into a false sense of security.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You can't change past failures, so there is no point in dwelling on them. However, while the Sun is in your sign you can have a few successes, so stop being negative and start doing things that get you noticed.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something is bothering you and your rivals and enemies are beginning to pick up on your fear. Don't worry about whether you are moving in the right direction because all roads lead to the same destination.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you try to live up to other people's image of you then you are likely to exhaust yourself for no good reason. Your health should be your main concern.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If someone in a position of authority asks you to do something of a questionable nature today you must turn them down flat. Principle comes before power.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	9		1		6		5	
3			4		7			2
9	3						2	1
				6				
4	5						8	6
7			8		1			4
	4		3		5		9	

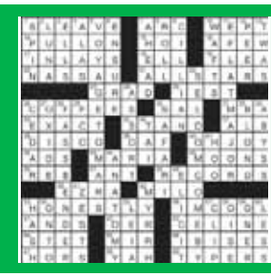
©2013 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

metro
Tell us how you really feel.
Join our online reader panel and help make your Metro even better. Text 'metro' to 236-237-1740

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



5	6	7	9	3	1	2	8	4
2	4	3	8	7	6	1	5	9
8	1	9	4	2	5	3	7	6
4	7	8	5	9	3	6	2	1
1	9	2	7	6	8	5	4	3
6	3	5	1	4	2	8	9	7
3	5	4	6	8	9	7	1	2
9	8	6	2	1	7	4	3	5
7	2	1	3	5	4	9	6	8

TODAY ONLY!

IN STORE AND AT THEBAY.COM

FREE ONLINE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OF $99 OR MORE*.

Monday, December 14

Save $50

$24.99 Regular $75

PERRY ELLIS
men's tops

Assorted sport shirts, cotton-blend 1/4-zip knit tops, cotton-blend V-neck sweaters and shawl collar tops in up to 8 colours.
Exclusively ours

Plus, 40% off

other **PERRY ELLIS** casual clothes for men**

HUDSON'S BAY

No rain checks and no price adjustments. No pre-orders or telephone orders. Offer available while quantities last. Cannot be combined with other offers. Selection may vary by store. Savings are off our regular prices unless otherwise specified. Excludes Hudson's Bay Company Collection and Kleinfeld. See in store for details.
***FREE ONLINE SHIPPING**: Receive free standard shipping on a total purchase amount of $99 or more before taxes. Offer is based on merchandise total and does not include taxes or any additional charges. Free standard shipping is applied after discounts and/or promotion code offers. Offer not valid at Hudson's Bay or any other HBC stores. Additional fees apply for Express or Next Day Shipping. Applies to Canadian delivery addresses only. Excludes furniture, canoes, patio furniture, patio accessories, barbecues and mattresses. ****Perry Ellis** excludes items with 99¢ price endings.